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THE CHAT

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Cover Photograph—Male (lower) and female Evening Grosbeaks lured to the Quay's feeding station with sunflower seeds, at Raleigh, N. C. Photographed by Jack Dermid, February, 1955.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The CBC meeting on January 13-15 at Charleston, which included our annual mid-winter field trip, was certainly an inspiration! We had a record-breaking attendance of approximately two hundred, and the members of the Charleston Natural History Society did themselves proud with an exceptionally well-organized program for our entertainment and enjoyment. The day at Bulls Island was everything any birder could wish for! A count of 112 species was recorded, notable on the list being a Black Rail, a Great Black-backed Gull and a Western Kingbird.

Praise and thanks to the CNHS and to I. H. S. Metcalf, Sr., new President of CNHS, Ellison Williams, Colonel Metcalf, Ted Beckett and Betty Lemon, and to Rock and Kay Comstock in particular, for their good job of planning the program. We regretted the Comstocks were not with us; they have been transferred to Yorktown, Va.

Bill Baldwin's slides of Bulls, which he showed on Friday night at the Charleston Museum, were greatly enjoyed by everyone. The dinner at the Citadel, arranged by Colonel Metcalf, was excellent and the film shown later in the evening by Robert Edwards of McClellanville, was filled with many splendors—thanks to Ed Hyde who did the filming.

A high light of the meeting was the presentation to Ellison Williams, Chairman of the Endowment Fund, of one hundred and eighteen dollars ($118.00) of which one hundred and sixteen dollars ($116.00) was from the Bill May Memorial Fund. Bill May, son of Fred H. May, died a number of years ago. Announcement was also made that the Lenoir Audubon Club had voted to send a substantial sum for the Endowment Fund as a memorial to Mrs. J. W. Clinard, victim of a recent automobile accident. This is the first club to make a one hundred dollar ($100.00) donation to the Endowment Fund. Mrs. N. A. Pomeroy, who now lives in Waterbury, Conn., also sent in a contribution. Won't all members and friends of CBC help with this fund?

Since this will be my last official message to all members, I wish to take this occasion to thank you for the fine support and loyalty given me during my term of office. Especially do I want to thank Fred May, Harry Davis and Robert Overing who always responded when I called on them and gave me such good advice. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president and I bespeak for our new officers the same loyal support.

There is physical evidence of the increased interest and support of our conservation program, and I am sure that it will continue to grow as time goes on. We can all help by making greater effort and interesting others in it.

Inasmuch as it is not possible for all members to attend CBC meetings, and since the area of our two states is great, to help solve this problem, some regional areas have been established with leaders, for the purpose of bringing more people together and interesting new contacts in CBC. Although this program is still in its early stages, I would like to see the zone idea grow.

Our annual meeting will be in Charlotte, N. C., on March 24 at the Barringer Hotel. Mrs. George C. Potter is in charge of the program and I invite all CBC members to attend. Let's have a big meeting!

MAY W. PUETT

HAWK MIGRATIONS ALONG THE MIDDLE EASTERN SEABOARD, DELAWARE TO NORTH CAROLINA

D. F. Crossan and R. A. Stevenson, Jr.

The following observations of migrating birds of prey were made over a period of about six years (1947-1952). Some of the sightings were the result of field trips made specifically for this purpose. Other observations were made during the course of various fishing and hunting trips. Only the fall migration is mentioned as this is by far the most spectacular phase of their annual round trip.

In the vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware in the latter part of September there is usually one and sometimes several days when conditions seem to be at their best for migrating hawks. To the observers these periods are always characterized by clear skys and a strong north-west wind. Then, great numbers of hawks, mostly Buteos (soaring hawks), and Accipiters (short-winged hawks) may be seen flying at altitudes from 500 to 2,000 feet in a general south-west direction. The majority of the hawks are Broad-winged and Red-tailed, which tend to flock together in great aerial circles as they find the thermals which will carry them to the higher altitudes. The short-winged hawks, though sometimes joining these gatherings, more commonly travel singly and at lower altitudes. Considerable numbers of Sparrow Hawks may also be seen, among which could probably be identified some Pigeon Hawks if closer study were possible. During these periods, only an occasional bird may be seen to plummit downward, supposedly in pursuit of game or to find a suitable resting place.

Just south of Ocean City, Maryland is an island where along toward the end of September or the first of October one may be privileged to see a rare and magnificent sight, for it is to Asateague Island that the majestic Peregrine Falcon comes in his annual migratory flight. On the way to this spot one sees few or none of these spectacular birds, a fact leading to the belief that part of their journey lies offshore over the ocean. It is assumed that they make a landfall at or very near this point. In any event, relatively large numbers pause here in their migration down the coast. The birds find good hunting in the surrounding bays and marshes and if one is keen of sight he may notice a dark spot high in the blue autumn sky which is almost sure to be a Peregrine. During early morning, an empty stomach keeps them at a lower level and it is then one has a better chance to do his observing. One visit to this area was made during a southwest storm and although light and visibility were not too good, a considerable number of birds were low and easy to observe. It is reasonable to assume that a certain number remain in this vicinity most of the winter as the birds they prey upon are generally abundant. The majority, however, pass on southward to other coastal areas in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Considerable numbers of Peregrines may also be seen in September and October along the outer banks of the North Carolina coast. Here the birds find much the same conditions that exist northward and many make this area their permanent winter headquarters. The outer banks afford them the vast open areas they desire for hunting as well as good cover in which to roost and find shelter during storms. In addition to the Peregrines, during the latter part of September 1951, mass flights of Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen over a three day period along the banks in the vicinity of Nags Head, N. C. These birds were flying at all altitudes from ground level to about 500 feet, and were frequently seen hunting through the low, scrub-type growth. These birds were concentrated and moving at a moderate rate toward and beyond Oregon Inlet—*Division of Biological Sciences, N. C. State College, May 13, 1953*

EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements
Authors, Members, Letters
Items of Interest

The following notes are from W. L. McAtee, Chapel Hill, N. C.: A few more Carolina Bird Names.—I would not have been surprised had the publication of *Carolina Bird Names* (*Chat* 18:62-69, 87-94, 1954; 19:8-15, 1955) resulted in a flood of additions. While I have seen none in print, these have come from correspondents and may well be put on record. **Wood Ibis.** *Creek-stopper*, Congaree and Wateree River swamps and marshes, Mrs. Wm. Faver, Eastover, S. C. (Kay Sisson); *rice-field buzzard*, from feeding on dead fish in drying rice fields, lowland South Carolina, E. B. Chamberlain. **Whistling Swan.** *Bale of cotton*, an illegally killed bird being about as hard to hide as if it were the object mentioned, Currituck Sound, N. C., J. W. E. Joyner. **Pileated Woodpecker.** *B'Jesus bird*, Cypress swamp country, S. C., Mrs. Wm. Faver (Kay Sisson). [For an account of the apparently deistic names of this bird, see my article in *American Speech*, 26: 90-95, 1951.] **Song Sparrow.** *Swamp sparrow*, Brasstown, N. C., Lucille Gault.

— CBC —

Because of the lack of space, congratulations are just now going to Bill Hamnett, Harry Davis, Miss Lorraine Thomas of the N. C. Wildlife Commission, and any others who assisted, for the fine work they did of turning out the new CBC Membership List in the December, 1955 CHAT. As of that list we have 1183 members. Regular, 1027; Supporting, 70; Family, 43; Club, 19 and CHAT subscriptions to Libraries, Garden Clubs, etc., 24.

— CBC —

In the September, 1955 CHAT opposite page 62 appeared a photograph of Ring-necks taken by Jack Dermid. What was your guess at the number of ducks? Jack counted 272, exclusive of those only partly showing at the edges. Have you practiced the block count method explained by Hal Steele in the accompanying article? This is used by federal and state wildlife men and serious ornithologists everywhere. Try working on it, it will pay off!

— CBC —

A letter from J. Edward Hyde, CBCer from Springfield, Mass., and President of the Allen Bird Club in that city, states that a chartered busload of Allen Bird Club members are coming to McClellanville, S. C. in April to go birding. Mr. & Mrs. Hyde like South Carolina and hope to retire here someday. Incidentally, the "Birds of South Carolina" film shown by Robert Edwards at the Charleston meeting in January, was taken by Mr. Hyde. Besides the excellent filming of the Painted Buntings and other species on the feeders at the Edwards', portions of it were shot on the oyster reefs north of Bulls Island, the Isle of Palms, at Fairlawn and over the Santee. It is beautiful work! Thanks to Mr. Hyde for the privilege of seeing it.

CAROLINAS 1955 CHRISTMAS COUNT

B. R. Chamberlain

Participation in the 1955 Christmas census was disappointing. One hundred and sixty-four census takers worked 19 locations. Last year these numbers were, 243 and 23. Publication of the counts presented to the National Audubon Society may indicate whether or not the new 50 cents charge by that organization was a factor. We hope not. No charge was made by us, but in past years we have received copies of the reports to the National Society.

The total count this winter was in the order of 131,000. Of these, the wildfowl at the Mattamuskeet refuge alone, numbered above 125,000. At most localities, species and individual counts were down. Some comments indicated lack of food as well as of observers. Greensboro was an exception. Fewer observers there found more species than ever before.

Again this year, the outstanding find was an accidental at Charleston—a **Vermilion Flycatcher.** It was later taken for the Charleston Museum, to establish a first record for the species in South Carolina. Evening Grosbeaks were located at Henderson, New London, and at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. A Dickcissel was at a feeder at Lenoir. On the day before the count, 7 **Brant** were seen at Pawley's Island, Georgetown County, S. C.

In our reports of the 1953 and 1954 Christmas counts we dropped the tabular form of presentation to provide space for other subjects. In this issue we are able to go back to the tables and show complete data for each location. As before, the arrangement of the count communities, reading from left to right, is in the approximate order of their altitudes above sea level.

A glance at the listing of water birds and predators will show them concentrated in the coastal and lower Piedmont areas with only scattered entries towards the mountains. There is a fairly even spread of the land birds. Stupka found, in the Gt. Smoky Mts., 80% of the land birds listed in the middle Piedmont count at Greensboro.

This year our location map carries a new feature. The ratios of species and individuals to observers and parties are shown at each location. For the present, these figures may be helpful only in fostering competition. It would be a mistake to draw conclusions too rapidly from them. Sound comparisons depend upon party-hours, party-miles, coverage, weather, experience in the field and a host of other factors.

Aiken, S. C. (area unchanged). Dec. 25; 6:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; clear, abnormally warm. Temp. 54°-78°; light wind, mostly SW. Three observers in one party, in a.m., two parties in p.m. Total party hours, 12 (11 on foot, 1 in car); total party miles, 112 (9 on foot, 103 in car). Participants, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Norris, William Post, Jr. (compiler). This count contained 21% more species than were recorded last year—probably due to increase in observers and parties. All three of our nuthatches were found; 2 Red-breasted being the most unusual. There were good concentrations of Redwings, Common Grackles, and Cowbirds.

Charleston, S. C. (area unchanged). Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy, overcast; 33° to 48°. Wind N-NNE, light. Swamps and ponds very low and dry. Total party hours 52 (44 on foot, 6 by car, 2 by boat). Total party miles 150 (34 on foot, 109 by car, 7 by boat). Most important find, a **Vermilion Flycatcher.** This is a first record for South Carolina (The specimen, a male, was again observed, Dec. 31, and finally taken for the Charleston Museum, Jan. 5, 1956). Other unusuals: **Great Black-backed Gull**, a

Magnolia Warbler, a Prairie Warbler, and a Louisiana Water-Thrush. A number of the commoner species were missed. Coverage was not as good as it usually is. Participants: Alston Badger, Mrs. Louise Barrington, E. Burnham Chamberlain(compiler), Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, Ernest A. Cutts, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dawn, John Henry Dick, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edwards, Julian Harrison, I. S. H. Metcalf, Sr., I. S. H. Metcalf, John Quinby, Arthur Ravenel, Jr., Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Wilcox, Ellison A. Williams.

Columbia, S. C. (Same general area as in preceding years except Congaree Creek area omitted); deciduous river and creek swamps 23%, pine woods 20%, open fields 27%, lake shores 15%; December 26, 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear to overcast; temperature 48° to 60°; wind N, 0-9 m.p.h.; 8 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 34 (25 on foot, 9 by car); total party miles 74 (12 on foot, 62 by car). Only notable find one Yellow-billed Cuckoo which seemed ill. Participants: Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Gilbert J. Bristow (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, David Monteith, Charles I. Simons and Miss Ebba Van.

Charlotte, N. C. (area unchanged. Centered at SE edge of the city). Dec. 31, 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Temp. 20° to 50°; light NW wind. Ground very dry, water open except at edges during a.m. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 27 (18 on foot, 9 in car); total party miles 125 (15 on foot, 110 by car). The finch population was greater than usual. Only rarity were 2 female **Baltimore Orioles** that had been at the Clarkson feeders for about a week. Participants: Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, J. P. Hamilton, S. Ann Locke, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. George C. Potter, B. R. Chamberlain (compiler).

Eastover, S. C. (area unchanged). Jan. 2, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Temp. 24° to 65°; fair, light wind. Two observers in one party. Poor count attributed to low food supply and absence of water in swamp areas. Best find, 1 Anhinga. Participants: Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

Greensboro, N. C. (area approximately the same as previous counts). Dec. 31, 2:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Partly cloudy. Temp. 25° to 43°; wind gusty, NW 10-25 m.p.h. Thin ice. Thirty-one observers in 19 parties; total party hours 100 (60 on foot, 40 in car), total party miles, 289 (51 on foot, 238 in car). Seven of the above observers, constituting 3 parties, participated only on a part time basis. The species count (85) was an all time high. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, reported in the area daily since Dec. 12, was also seen on the count. Participants: Mrs. W. C. Carr, Inez Coldwell, Evelyn Cole, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry A. Crawford, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, James W. Furr, Bryte Hefner, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, Mrs. Robert E. McCoy, James R. Mattocks, H. L. Medford, Jr., Ida Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. George W. Perrett (compilers), Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith L. Settan, George A. Smith, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Thomas E. Street, Hal H. Strickland, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Taylor, Mrs. W. R. Troxler, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Mrs. R. H. Weisner.

Great Smoky Mountain National Park. (usual area). Dec. 26, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mostly overcast, temp. 32° to 48°; wind light NE, under 10 m.p.h.; ground bare in lowlands, some light snow in shade at high altitudes. Twenty-seven observers in 10 parties. Total party hours, 80 (70 on foot, 10 by car); total party miles, 188 (81 on foot, 107 by car). Interesting finds: lone Catbird; two flocks of Evening Grosbeaks. A **White-winged Crossbill** was seen in the area during the count period. Participants: Hubert Bebb,

Dr. R. James Becker, Richard C. Burns, Mary & Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, Mary Enloe, Elizabeth French, Michael N. Greeley, Philip Huff, John C. Jacobs, Jr., Mrs. Elsie S. Janson, Tony Koella, Richard R. Laurence, Mr. & Mrs. H. Frank Leonhard, Granville B. Liles, Dorothy McLean, Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Elsie Morrell, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul S. Pardue, John Louis Sonner, Arthur Stupka (compiler), Dr. James T. Tanner, William A. Walker, Jr. (Tenn. Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests).

Henderson, N. C. (area unchanged). Dec. 27, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., temp. 28° to 40°, gentle wind. Four observers in one party in the field. Others at feeders. A large group (50) **American Mergansers** was watched at length. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in the area Dec. 28. Participants: Mrs. A. W. Bachman, Miss Mariel Gary, Miss Annie May Hunter (compiler), Miss Garnette Meyers.

Lenoir, N. C. (area unchanged). Dec. 31, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; clear, cold. Twelve observers in several parties. A Dickcissel that has been at the Bernard's and May's feeders for some weeks was present. Forty-five White-crowned Sparrows were noted. Participants: Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Greer, Miss Cary Harrison, Frank Hoyer, Miss Irene Hoyer, Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. May, Tom Parks (compiler), and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. B. F. Williams.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C. (same area as in previous counts, centering near refuge lodge). Jan. 2, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; temp. 25° to 48°; wind N to E, 3-12 m.p.h. Ground clear, light ice in a.m. Three observers in one party. Total party hours, 10 (6 on foot, 4 in car), Total party miles, 52 (4 on foot, 48 by car). A marked increase in duck population credited to the removal of carp from the lake. One thousand Ring-necks were located where only 25 were seen on last winter's count. A single Greater Scaup was noted. The Red-wing Blackbird count was strangely down from 10,000 of last year to 750. Participants: W. A. Cahoon (Refuge Manager), Larry A. Crawford, Jr. (compiler), Robert L. Wolff.

Mt. Olive, N. C. (adjacent farms, Jones' Mill, and Seven Springs—as in previous counts). Jan. 2, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear, temp. 30° to 54°; wind E, 0-5 m.p.h. One observer, Bob Holmes III. Total hours, 10.5; total miles, 50 (8 on foot, 42 by car). The 68 species indicates exceptionally good coverage by one observer. Unusual tally of all species of our woodpeckers in one day. The Baltimore Orioles are becoming fairly common, but erratic in appearance at Mt. Olive.

New London, Stanley Co., N. C. (area unchanged—centering 2 mi. NW of Badin. Dec. 30, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 28° to 44°; 10 mile wind SSW. Foggy in early morning with some rain, clearing in p.m. Eleven observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 26 (10 on foot, 16 in car); Total party miles, 192 (15 on foot, 177 by car). This count high-lighted by appearance of Evening Grosbeaks. They were reported earlier in the winter in this location. Participants: Keith Byrd, Susan Greene, Barbara Hatley, Dwight Morgan, Tommy Morris, R. G. Mahathey, Gayle Mahathey, John Trott (compiler), Jane Turner, Mrs. Vivian Whitlock, Anne Whitlock.

Pawley's Island, Georgetown Co., S. C. (new census area, includes the island proper, measuring approximately 4 mi. long and .2 mi. wide, and its adjacent marshes, salt creek and ocean front—considerably under the standard area). Dec. 26, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 48° to 55°; wind 10 to 20 m.p.h. Party miles, 8 (6 by car, 2 on foot) Three observers in one party. A male and female White-winged Scoter **in the open creek** are noteworthy.

Best find was made on the day before the count when 7 **Brant** were watched. Participants: Kay Sisson, Dorothy Wade, Douglas Wade (compiler).

Raleigh, N. C. (practically same area as in previous counts) Dec. 27, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy in a.m., clearing in p.m., NE wind, 6 m.p.h.; temp. 30° to 45°. Ground bare, water open. Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 48 (42 on foot, 6 in car). Fewer species and individuals than usual. Participants: Philip Davis, Mrs. Charlotte H. Green, J. F. Greene, J. W. Johnson, Steve Johnson, Robert Overing, Mrs. D. L. Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Rocky Mount, N. C. (same territory as in last several years) Dec. 26, 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 38° to 44°. Clear a.m.; cloudy p.m. Wind N, 10 m.p.h. Five observers in one party. Total miles, 130 (1 on foot). No rare species. Good concentration of Goldfinches. Participants: Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Benbow, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. E. Joyner, M. H. Barney (compiler).

Spartanburg, S. C. (usual area centering in town, excluding Lake Edwin Johnson). Jan. 2, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 28° to 50°; no wind in a.m.; light in p.m. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 17 (13 on foot, 4 in car); total party miles, 35 (7 on foot, 28 by car). No unusual species or concentrations. A good count of Fox Sparrows, some of them **singing.** Participants: Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Harold Correll, Ruth Crick (compiler), Paul Crosby, Margaret Hammond, Mrs. J. E. Spivey, Dr. and Mrs. John O. Watkins.

Todd, N. C. (area same as last three years—along Ashe-Watauga county line).—Dec. 29, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; cloudy, temp. 30° to 40°; wind NW to SE 10-15 m.p.h.; rainy in a.m., ground and streams frozen on Bald Mt., partly frozen in lower area. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (22 on foot, 18 by car and jeep); total party-miles, 37 (12 on foot, 8 by car, 17 by jeep). Compared with last year, 50% more species, and 45% more individuals were found, proving, no doubt, the advantage of having a veteran observer along. Participants: Rev. Manuel Foote, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), James Miller, Kent Robinson, Wendell P. Smith.

Wilmington, N. C. (11th count in this area). Dec. 28, 6:40 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; clear, temp. 23° to 44°, wind NNE, 15 to 28 m.p.h. Ground bare, thin ice. Eighteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 76 (39 on foot, 37 in car); total party-miles, 335 (50 on foot, 285 by car). "This count seems to prove that the hurricanes have done something to our bird population. We were way down on our spring count and down on this one. Of course, the high winds hurt some. Fires and salt spray and salt water driven in by the hurricanes have ruined some of our best feeding areas. The hollies and pyrocanthas have very few berries on them." Important find: **Yellow-throated Warbler,** rarely found here in winter. Participants: Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mrs. Mary Baker, Clifford Comeau, Bob Holmes, III, Bill James, Howard Langridge, Mrs. Polly Mebane, Miss Roxanna Mebane, Russel Paris, J. L. Sprunt, Jr., Mrs. June Sprunt, Mrs. Sue Thompson, Matt Thompson, Mrs. Mary Urich, Mike Vaughan, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Hal Walters.

Winston-Salem, N. C. (same area as last year—excluding Yadkin River). Dec. 26, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 34° to 52°; wind NE, 0-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 35 (24 on foot, 11 in car); total party-miles, 54 (24 on foot, 30 by car). The count of individuals was low. There were no unusual species. A total of 19 White-crowned Sparrows were noted. Participants: Charles M. Frost, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Lucia Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer, Robert H. Witherington (compiler).

MOUNTAIN
PIEDMONT
COASTAL
96 | 505
5 | 3
55 | 2536
7 | 4
87 | 10659
31 | 19
58 | 1571
4 | 1
61 | 2442
7 | 5
48 | 2959
5 | 1
43 | 898
12 | —
56 | 3030
27 | 10
78 | 131,140
3 | 1
64 | 1693
11 | 3
52 | 1822
9 | 3
68 | 3087
1 | 1
63 | 2444
9 | 3
OPC
65 | 3570
8 | 4
55 | 1117
2 | 1
141 | 10,187
18 | 8
64 | 10,246
3 | 1
60 | 1441
3 | 1
134 | 6295
20 | 6
CHRISTMAS COUNT
1955
KEY: SPECIES | INDIVIDUALS
OBSERVERS | PARTIES

CHRISTMAS COUNT
1955

	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Isld., S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Mt. Olive, N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mt. Nat. Park
Common Loon	2	31	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-throated Loon	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe	25	14	11	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	3	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe	23	10	91	25	2	2	7	3	6	22	3	..	6	17	9	..	..	..	..
Brown Pelican	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gannet	2	30	72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
D-c Cormorant	16	75	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Great Blue Heron	19	8	14	25	1	1	5	..	1	3	1	3	1	1	2	3	..	..	..
Anhinga	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Egret	2	12	7	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snowy Egret	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tri-colored Heron	24	20	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Little Blue Heron	15	10	16	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green Heron	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	..	5	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	120	8	..	..	..	..
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Bittern	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104	..	187	20	70	..	..	..
Whistling Swan	..	..	..	2000	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	3	..	44	8	32	..	..	1
Canada Goose	..	..	..	60,000	..	..	..	2	..	12	..	1	..	17	..	10	..	..	..
Blue Goose	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	8	14	..	..	..	..	..
Mallard	33	..	521	6000	1	1	..	..	6	38	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Black Duck	57	..	31	10,000	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Gadwall	19	..	123	3000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Widgeon	3	..	82	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	16	..	157	35,000	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal	16	..	707	3000	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue-winged Teal	10	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Shoveller	8	..	11	1000	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	4	..	5	350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Redhead	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	210	50	15	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	106	75	113	1000	21	11	..	4	10	52	..	..	10	57	3	..	..	..	..
Canvas-back	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	15	30	..	..	..	..
Scaup (Sp.)	13	200	32	2500	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Common Golden-eye	5	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	2	..	..	..
Bufflehead	24	5	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Squaw	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-winged Scoter	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Scoter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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Ruddy Duck	4	..	35	2000	.	.	..	..	..	4		..		18	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merganser	5	..	38	9	..	16	7	..	..	..	2	..	2	13	..	1	..	..	
Red-breasted Merganser	31	1	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Mergenser	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey Vulture	18	8	6	50	4	76	22	1	9	1	18	8	5	46	19	14	.	.	6
Black Vulture	24	2	8	2	2	26	2	15	17	.	2	4	11	9	35	.	.	.	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	.	..	1	1	.	..	..	..	..	1		1	.	3	.	..	1	1	.
Cooper's Hawk	2	..	2	.	1	2	..	.	.	2	1	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	2
Red-tailed Hawk	..	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	4	1	..	..	2	9	1	..	..	..	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1	2	1	2	..	..	2	.	4	.	1	2	6	1	..	..	1	.
Bald Eagle	1	..	2	36	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Marsh Hawk	..	1	12	5	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	.	
Osprey	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	
Peregrine Falcon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pigeon Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	9	2	9	7	7	11	3	6	9	8	5	9	..	4	..	4	1	2	2
Ruffed Grouse	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					.		..	10	5
Bob-white	..	..	3	25	1	..	30	..	8	.	..	8	14	11	9	..	..	10	8
Turkey	1	..	.	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
King Rail	..	..	2	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail	3	7	10	.	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	
Common Gallinule	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Coot	17	.	550	200	..	..	3	..	4	20	1	..		61	..	..	..	.	
American Oystercatcher	15	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piping Plover	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ringed Plover	11	12	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	12	..	108	40	19	176	6	19	10	10	142	24	30	39	29	31	6	..	40
Black-bellied Plover	12	18	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Woodcock	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Snipe	1	..	7	3	..	3	..	10	..	..	1			1	..	..	..	..	..
Spotted Sandpiper	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Willet	3	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Greater Yellow-legs	20	50	40	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Yellow-legs	4	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Sandpiper	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunlin	110	200	433	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Dowitcher	3	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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Semipalmated Sandpiper	..	7	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Western Sandpiper	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Sanderling	25	9	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Herring Gull	6	70	534	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Ring-billed Gull	57	8	370	100	..	..	35	..	1	..	..	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Laughing Gull	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Bonaparte's Gull	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Gull-billed Tern	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	.
Forster's Tern	1	36	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Tern	..	40	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caspian Tern	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Black Skimmer	..	..	160	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Mourning Dove	71	..	214	20	114	268	388	5	18	160	3	11	129	95	56	101	49	2	45
Ground Dove	1	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Screech Owl	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	.	
Great Horned Owl	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Barred Owl	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.	2	..	..	..	.	.
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	16	7	29	3	5	2	1	..	3	5	1	3	3	5	1	1	.	1	7
Yellow-shafted Flicker	58	..	74	15	18	4	15	13	18	18	12	6	13	47	15	7	1	1	4
Pileated Woodpecker	25	..	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	.		.	1		.	1	14
Red-bellied Woodpecker	50	..	13	2	4	.	3	3	3	10	6	6	9	20	11	2	2		
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	..	1	..	1	.	.	1	4	4	1	2	1	7	1		.	1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	45	..	10	..	6	2	3	2	2	5	4	3	5	16	5	5	2	1	4
Hairy Woodpecker	7	..	1	..	1	..	.	1	2	3	..	.	1	9	..	2	.	1	9
Downy Woodpecker	33	..	11	5	6	..	8	3	3	14	2	5	7	58	9	8	3	5	34
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	1	..	5	..	1	.	..	..	..	..	5	..	.	..	..	..	..	.	
Eastern Phoebe	11	..	34	1	9	3	9	10	6	1	3	5	6	9	1	1	.	11	
Vermilion Flycatcher	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	.	
Horned Lark	..	..		..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	.	1	12	4	65
Blue Jay	42	..	67	..	9	26	11	13	40	92	25	15	30	98	54	36	19	15	20
Common Raven	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	5
American Crow	112	20	26	50	17	118	25	22	38	24	8	52	55	216	156	47	9	45	246
Fish Crow	12	8	4	200	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Carolina Chickadee	68	..	35	6	16	3	28	8	22	23	8	42	30	151	21	39	8	11	251
Tufted Titmouse	38	..	58	..	25	1	10	12	22	22	12	15	38	145	18	26	5	4	61
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	..	.	..	3	.	2		3	10	2	1	2	64	1	10	4	3	2

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Red-breasted Nuthatch	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	3	..	5	..	2	..	..	77
Brown-headed Nuthatch	28	..	22	..	2	..	3	2	..	12	30	1	4	16	2	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper	4	..	2	..	5	..	5	..	7	4	..	2	..	18	1	3	..	..	16
House Wren	5	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winter Wren	3	..	11	..	3	..	1	2	2	3	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	2	10
Carolina Wren	35	1	17	4	7	3	11	3	25	21	14	20	8	59	23	20	7	8	40
Marsh Wren	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sedge Wren	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mockingbird	39	3	80	10	10	27	28	8	23	49	9	34	38	112	28	60	8	..	12
Catbird	9	1	7	2	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Brown Thrasher	14	..	26	2	3	3	..	2	25	4	7	2	6	4	6	..	1	..	..
American Robin	434	..	218	250	42	6	2	5	309	..	12	14	18	56	32	41	1	2	425
Hermit Thrush	37	..	28	..	8	..	4	2	13	5	8	2	2	8	2	3	..	..	29
Common Bluebird	34	..	84	..	22	35	27	34	131	42	5	47	58	226	58	90	9	26	83
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	..	30	5	5	..	7	..	9	8	16	8	7	27	1	34	..	..	73
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	128	..	35	5	12	1	9	11	48	9	19	2	13	14	12	2	4	..	3
Water Pipit	57	..	120	..	71	..	..	78	3	..	5	150	..	40	5	..	..	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	132	..	78	..	2	17	47	9	27	..	38	..	30	3	8	110	..	..	20
Loggerhead Shrike	16	3	18	..	8	44	9	9	7	13	5	13	13	8	12	10	2	..	3
Common Starling	20	..	233	200	150	956	169	257	571	610	6041	35	310	3899	750	500	54	47	89
White-eyed Vireo	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solitary Vireo	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Magnolia Warbler	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-throated Blue Warbler	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler	720	63	108	750	124	5	64	5	36	9	13	1	6	56	22	14	11	..	28
Yellow-throated Warbler	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Warbler	18	..	27	1	2	7	10	5	33	9	17	2	16	37	5	2	..	..	..
Prairie Warbler	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Warbler	1	9	36	15	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Louisiana Water-Thrush	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellowthroat	6	..	4	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-breasted Chat	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Sparrow	10	..	94	35	350	115	83	99	306	177	37	62	38	503	72	30	57	27	83
Common Meadowlark	165	..	403	20	265	219	57	66	129	161	9	150	73	199	99	59	36	2	45
Red-winged Blackbird	1215	200	999	750	580	..	35	150	4	..	2083	1	..	20	18	..	102	..	..
Baltimore Oriole	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..

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Rusty Blackbird	100	..	.	4	64	..	..	27	238	..	5			1	..	..	100	.	
Boat-tailed Grackle	14	121	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Common Grackle	2	..	10	6	..		..	28	..	..	500	..		101	..	..	3		
Common Cowbird	2	..	5	1000		57	.			..	600			200			20	.	
Cardinal	42	17	97	25	10	10	32	26	79	72	20	109	78	215	103	102	44	18	93
Dickcissel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	.	.		..	..	1		
Evening Grosbeak	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..		5					.		.
Purple Finch	99	..	147	..	.	15	41	..	2	6	15	27	74	85	59	15	47		21
Pine Siskin	..	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		16	10	.	4			346
American Goldfinch	51	13	62	8	15	289	31	8	61	16	21	117	72	115	170	40	16	40	144
Red Crossbill	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..		57
Eastern Towhee	159	.	189	4	32	3	10	2	83	21	18	8	29	61	48	7	6	23	19
Ipswich Sparrow	.	..	1	.	.	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..
Savannah Sparrow	8	..	58	75	18	3	17	20	..	14	10	1	..	2	7	..	..		
Henslow's Sparrow	..	.	3	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	13	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.		
Seaside Sparrow	6	3	1	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.		
Vesper Sparrow	28	2	57	.	2	2	..	6	7	..		3		.	..		..	2	
Slate-colored Junco	253	.	262	..	350	103	131	71	148	299	174	300	206	1504	64	500	56	152	200
Chipping Sparrow	18	1	159	.	3	3	..	5	164	..	47			6				.	
Field Sparrow	12	..	53	6	160	111	14	3	166	77	29	59	97	128	29	40	15	6	70
White-crowned Sparrow	.	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	.	
White-throated Sparrow	595	5	659	50	300	65	46	38	536	123	141	165	164	536	133	250	85	3	62
Fox Sparrow	35	.	76	2	3	1	1	..	1	7	1	1	.	14	26	1	6	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	128		28	12	12	..	..	7	6	15	6	4		94	4	5	3		
Song Sparrow	94	13	160	80	165	5	43	3	43	39	9	25	28	228	61	100	35	16	70
Number of species	134	60	141	78	68	48	58	55	64	61	63	64	52	87	63	55	43	36	56
Individuals	6295	1441	10.187	131.140	3087	2959	1571	1117	3569	2442	10.244	1693	1822	10.659	2444	2536	898	505	3030

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

This winter, backyard birding has been more than an amusing hobby, it has been essential for the survival of lots of birds. In our central section of South Carolina, food in the woods and fields is very scarce. The late freeze last spring killed the blooms that would have resulted in the many berries and small fruits that are usually found throughout our countryside. There were no nuts, except a few acorns. The hickory trees were badly damaged, and some very large, old ones were killed. The large gum trees in our river swamps seemed to produce no berries at all. There were few birds in the entire area covered in our Christmas Count. The lack of rain has dried up all but the large rivers and ponds. With no water in the marshes, creeks and branches, and with natural food so hard to find, the birds have just had to come to our yards. Of course, the large flocks of migratory birds have moved on to wherever conditions are better. We have counted Goldfinches, Robins and Cedar Waxwings by twos and threes, where we normally have huge flocks. The majority of the birds seen about the woods and fields are those that are mainly insect-eating species, such as the Bluebirds, Phoebes, Kinglets, etc. The small native sparrows are missing, since there are no weed and grass seeds. What few that are here seem to stay in our yard around the feeders.

For the first time this year, the tiny Brown-headed Nuthatch has come down out of the large pines around our home to visit the birdbath and suet feeder. We have always seen and heard these Nuthatches in the tree tops, but with food there so abundant, they ignored our efforts to entice them to join the other birds at the feeders.

Another visitor to the suet feeder on the trunk of the large pecan tree, is a Hairy Woodpecker. In this case, the size of the feeder serves as a measure for the bird. The little Downies are smaller than the feeder, while the Hairy is larger. It is very interesting to watch the two species feed at the same time, one on either side of the suet. A group that is not so welcome is six Blue Jays! I will leave to your imagination what they can do to a feeder in five minutes. If the supply is low in the feeder by the birdbath, they attack the window feeder in the kitchen. However, here they have competition, for this feeder is ruled by one Mockingbird, which tries hard to keep every other bird off the shelf. Can anyone tell me something NICE that could happen to a mockingbird? [Yeah, when food is abundant in the summertime, these belligerent fellows sing so ecstatically! *Ed*]

I hope all backyard birders added some plant or shrub to their yard this winter that will assist in attracting birds. There are many ornamental shrubs and small trees that can be used, although there are some that turn out to be a nuisance. Once started, the privet hedge will have to be pulled out like weeds, as will the Chinaberry and the Cherry Laurel. But these are well liked by lots of birds, and will grow anywhere. We have only two Purple Finches this season, because there are no hedge berries. A small

flock of these birds usually comes and stays about this hillside until all the hedge berries have been eaten. This year, I saw only two males eating at the grain feeder just one day.

There are five Robins that also stayed on this hillside when the large flocks left in early December. These birds pick at the few heads of Ligustrum berries, then come to the north side of the house to the top of a Chinaberry tree, where they eat the berries that were produced *year before last!* When these trees put out again last spring, after having been killed back by the frost, the top branches were left as dead, but with these large clusters of berries on them. John K. Terres, in his *Songbirds in your Garden*, says that Robins love toast, so I am going to put out some for them, though I guess Jays will get it first!

My sister gave me *Songbirds in your Garden* at Christmas, and it is really a "must" for all backyard birders. I have learned many new and useful ideas that I am going to try around our home. With this book to follow, anyone can attract birds to their home grounds. And the book itself is such delightful entertainment that I could hardly put it down, but wished that it would just go on and on.

Notes from Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C.: January 11, a strange bird came to my feeder in the back yard. It was very shy and did not permit me to get a good look at it, although from its size and bill I guessed an oriole. The next day I was at my daughter's house next door when this new bird appeared on her feeder, which hangs on a limb of a holly tree, 5 or 6 feet from the den window. It was still shy and kept flying away and returning, seeming to notice the movements of the children inside the room. The first thing that struck me was its reddish-yellow which looked so different from the yellow of Warblers, Tanagers and female Orchard Orioles. My daughter, Essie Mae, got out her *Audubon Guide* and turned to the orioles, and there was our bird—a female Baltimore. I checked with Peterson when I came home and am satisfied that we identified our visitor correctly. Peterson, incidentally, calls the color of this species yellow-orange. I had almost forgotten how your Baltimore Orioles looked since the time Mrs. J. B. Frazier and I drove to Eastover to see them on your feeder. On January 13 our Oriole is still here.

Mrs. Pinckney L. King, Hartsville, S. C., wrote that on November 1, 1955, she saw a Baltimore Oriole and that one day after that date she saw a flock of them from 15 to 20, mostly immatures and females, but she did spot 2 adult males.

Who else among our readers has notes on this species? Please send them in with dates, and any other activities that would be interesting to other backyard birders. I would like to hear again from some of my regular contributors to this department!

—CBC—

MAKE YOUR 1956 SPRING COUNT!

Let's have a good turnout of CBC members this year for the spring count. Last spring only seven reports were sent in, with five the year before; eight in 1953 and twelve in 1952.

Plan to make this count at the peak of migration in your area. Usually this period falls toward the end of April or early in May. I think May 1 is the date generally aimed at.

Christmas census areas are ideal for spring counting as it is already familiar territory that has been covered year after year.

Make these reports exactly as you turn in the Christmas census. Send in all counts as soon as possible after they have been made, to **B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.**, who will analyze and write up the entire picture in the Carolinas for THE CHAT.—*Ed.*

BOOK REVIEW

The Wren, by Edward A. Armstrong, Collins Publishing Company, St. James Place, London, 1955. 312 pgs., 20 black and white photographs, 41 drawings and diagrams.

The subject of this book, the Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, is a species with some forty-nine subspecies distributed around the northern hemisphere. The author refers most frequently to the European Wren (*T. t. troglodytes*), but he also presents a great deal of information about the Iceland, Shetland, Hebrides, and St. Kilda Wrens. Also mentioned is the winter wren, which is an American subspecies (*T. t. hiemalis*), as well as various other species of wrens, such as the Carolina Wren, the Cactus Wren and the numerous tropical wrens. Other birds, such as the Dipper, are discussed where pertinent for purposes of comparison. The data given are from the observations of the author, an English clergyman living in Cambridge, and from a large number of other papers, studies and notes by other ornithologists and observers.

The book is similar in approach and coverage to Lack's *The Life of the Robin*, though it is more comprehensive in scope. Its fifteen chapters cover every aspect of the life history of the Wren, from "Distribution and Habitat" to "Care of the Nestlings" and "Arising and Roosting". Each chapter is divided into sub-titled sections; for example, under "Song and Calls" are found "Exploratory Song", "Seasonal Song", "Vocal Mimicry", "Pitch", etc., and under "Nest Building", "Building Tempo", "Alignment and Propinquity", "Lining", "Nesting Dates", etc. Each section presents a general discussion of its topic with numerous references to pertinent observations and papers. The observations range from random notes, such as those mentioning the various places where wrens have nested (on the ground, in cow skulls, in a pair of bathing trunks, in a houseboat traveling on the Nile), to the systematic presentation of graphs and charts.

The large number of these graphs and charts (32 tables and 41 diagrams, histograms, graphs and maps) indicates the considerable extent to which information about the wren has been systematized. Mention of a few of the titles will give an idea of the information conveyed: "Number of feeding visits per hour by different species and subspecies of wren", "Histograms showing the Shetland wren's seasonal spread of breeding activities", "Earliest recorded arising times in relation to moonlight", "Graph showing natural fluctuations in temperature of the Eastern House Wren's eggs under normal conditions in the nest". In addition to the charts and drawings there are a number of photographs showing various phases of wren activity.

Mr. Armstrong has made many original observations and studies of his own. He has dealt with numerous phases of wren life history, among them territory and territorial relationships, song production, rhythms of nest building and its correlation with weather conditions, incubation rhythms, feeding rhythms, and times of roosting and arising. Besides these, perhaps his most valuable contribution is the clear and consistent use of precise technical terms concerning behavior, which would serve to establish these terms as part of a sound ornithological vocabulary.

The Wren is remarkable in being as compactly informative as it is without seeming dry. The student who wants to do further work on the wren will find it indispensable, and for the professional it should be valuable for purposes of comparison and as an addition to an ornithological library. For the average reader it should serve as a good introduction to the concepts of modern ornithology and as an aid to intelligent bird watching.—LAURA J. TOWNES

— CBC —

NOTE: Spring field trip at Clemson, S. C., watch newsletter.

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Shearwaters, Terns, and Other Hurricane Victims.— Considering the unusual number of tropical hurricanes that swept, or threatened our coast last fall, very few reports of birds being killed reached us. Some were driven inland but remained there a few days only. At Shackleford Bank, off of Beaufort, N. C., an adult male **Cinerous Shearwater** *(Puffinus diomedea)* was picked up, Aug. 13, following the passage of "Connie." It was preserved by John Funderburg and is now in his collection.

A Hudsonian Curlew and a Sanderling appeared at a road construction pond near Mt. Olive, N. C., Aug. 12, where they were found by Robert Holmes, III. At Rocky Mount, a Common Tern was picked up Aug. 17, in a completely exhausted condition by Bill Joyner, who revived it with Baltimore minnows, banded it, and released it the next day at City Lake. The bird "flew off slowly, but as it circled the lake, it seemed to fly stronger. Soon it got into the stiff breeze and climbed rapidly up and out of sight, headed northeast." On Aug. 17, at Mt. Olive, Holmes found 2 Sooty Terns, a Common Tern, about 10 Least Terns, and a Black Tern. Another Sooty Tern was captured just south of Henderson, N. C., Aug. 17. The bird had been badly injured an it died in a short time. Mrs. A. W. Bachman examined and identified it.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

Addition to the Avifauna of S. C.—On December 16, 1955, I was called on the phone by my friend, Donald D. Dodge, of Seabrook House Plantation, Edisto Island, to the effect that a strange duck had been secured in his rice fields the previous day. He had identified it to his satisfaction (from Kortwright's *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*) as a Tree-duck. The bird was sent in to the writer next day and the identification was correct. It was a Fulvous Tree-duck *(Dendrocygna bi-color helva)* in good plumage and a skin was made of it.

It was secured by Gilliard Baldwin, Mr. Dodge's overseer, in the Pon-Pon section of the So. Edisto River, Colleton County. The previous day or two, a flock of four had been observed in a canal very near the Camp house, and because of their strange appearance, the one above mentioned was taken. It is the first specimen for South Carolina. Including the Hypotheticals, it makes the 469th avian form for the State.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

Behavior: Sparrow Hawk.—One or more Sparrow Hawks *(Falco sparverius)* spend the winters on this plantation near Charleston roosting at night in the outbuildings. Numbers of bats also live here and on mild winter evenings can be seen streaming out at sunset. The hawks usually come to roost at this time and on a number of occasions have indulged in playing with the bats, making repeated dives at them. The bats easily dodge away and apparently also regard it as just a game.

Last winter, one male hawk appeared so small that it might have been a specimen of the Southern form *paulus*, now known to be an uncommon permanent resident in lower South Carolina. The Berkeley County bird referred to in *South Carolina Bird Life* is a fine male and was taken a mile from here; it is in my collection.

The bats appear to be of the Big-eared variety.—Edward von Siebold Dingle, *Huger, S. C., Sept. 1955.*

Late Quail Nesting.—On Sept. 17, 1955, at 3:00 p.m., I saw a mother quail (Bob-white) with a brood of approximately 8 chicks. The location was a peach orchard with dense undercover of *Crotalaria* and grasses. The young did not fly more than three feet at a time, and both young and mother made distress calls. The mother made short flights of about ten feet, but made no attempt to hide, as did the young. The chicks were probably quarter grown. This was a rather late brood for the Fayetteville area.—W. J. Mistric, Jr., *Entomology Dept., N. C. State College.*

Sora Rail in North Carolina Mountains.—On April 21, 1955, I watched a Sora Rail in full adult plumage for twenty minutes perched in second-growth deciduous saplings on a slope of Big Snowball Mountain (El. 4,500 ft., appx). This is within a few miles of Mt. Mitchell on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The rail was observed at a distance of 15 - 20 feet through 7x35 X binoculars. It remained quietly perched in a crouched position, occasionally moving its head; when flushed it would fly awkwardly to another nearby sapling and alight in upper branches. It had difficulty in landing in thorny honey locust. I was surprised to see this bird so far removed from its usual habitat. It should be noted that Bee Tree reservoir is about four miles distant, at a considerably lower elevation.—Joseph R. Norwood, *Charlotte, N. C.*

Great Black-backed Gull at Charleston.—In a recent letter to Woods and Waters column in the *Charleston News and Courier*, Ellison Williams recorded his observation, on December 20, 1955, of a single Great Black-backed Gull at Charleston. Williams watched the gull at length as it stood and flew among Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, near a drain at the muddy end of a city street along the Ashley River. Through his 40-odd powered telescope, he noted that the large and heavy bill still had a black tip—indicating that it was not a completely mature bird. This gull has subsequently been seen by other observers in the vicinity. It or another, was found again and recorded on the Charleston Christmas census, Dec. 29. This is thought to be the first record of the Great Black-backed Gull in Charleston Harbor.—*Dept. Ed.*

Some Banding Activities.—On July 11th, and 12th, 1955, on the higher sand bars between Harkers Island and Cape Lookout, 32 Common Terns, 115 Black Skimmers, 6 Thick-billed Plovers, 1 Clapper Rail, and 1 Oystercatcher, were banded. These were young, about the nesting colonies. The banders were John Thompson, Bill Joyner, D. L. Wray, John Grey and the writer.

On July 13, the same crew banded in a heron rookery on Starvation Island, Newport River. Here, bands were placed on 10 Common Egrets, 8 Tri-colored Herons, 10 Little Blue Herons, and 2 Black-crowned Night Herons. In addition to these, a male Redhead and a Common Egret were

later banded at Raleigh. A storm beaten Common Tern was banded at Rocky Mount (recorded elsewhere in this issue), and 3 Clapper Rails were banded at Beaufort, N. C.

If other banders in the Carolinas would report their banding, our C.B.C. members would be more alert in looking for bands. No opportunity should be passed up to look for bands on dead or captured birds.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

Vermilion Flycatcher in South Carolina.—The addition of a new bird to the State List was a fine Christmas present for two Charlestonians, Julian Harrison and the writer, working a swamp near McClellanville, S. C., Dec. 29, 1955. The prize: a **Vermilion Flycatcher,** spotted at Mayrant's reserve in the waning hours of the annual Christmas Bird Count.

We were making our last cast through the area, and while standing in the muck at the end of a causeway reaching into the swamp, I trained my glasses on a screen of dwarf cypress a hundred yards away over the water. There was movement behind the screen and a flash of red sped across my field of vision. Following it quickly, I picked up a scarlet gem perched at the end of a cypress bough, and focused carefully. It was neither cardinal nor tanager. This bird sat bolt upright, its brilliant breast gleaming, even in the poor light.

The bird dropped from his perch, sipped swallowlike at the surface of the black water and swept up to a new perch low in another cypress. Then it turned, showing black wings and *black on the back* and half way up the back of the head, showing scarlet above that.

Hasty recourse to a field guide.—Gone! Harrison says, back into the pines at the other side of the lagoon.

We waited, but the bird did not return. He left two observers pondering the problem of how they were going to explain that they were unable to identify a bird so brilliantly marked that, obviously, ANYBODY should have known him.

At home two hours later, I flipped through the pages of the field guide. I pried apart two pages stuck together with a dab of clay . . . and there was the bird. *Pyrocephalus*—"firehead". A vivid scarlet and black visitor from the semi-arid deserts of the southwest.

Two days later, E. Burnham Chamberlain, veteran ornithologist, accompanied me to the backwater and confirmed the identification and the bird was added to the Charleston count.

Several days later Ellison Williams, Ted Metcalf, Robert Coleman, Ernest Cutts and I returned to the backwater and watched the flycatcher for several minutes through binoculars and telescope. Chamberlain and Coleman had seen the species previously in the southwest. It was the first sight for the rest.

The bright plumaged male, fat from his diet of insects in the swamp was collected shortly afterward (Jan. 5) and added to the collection of the Charleston Museum.

The stomach was almost empty but did contain the remains of a small beetle. The bird was taken about 10 a.m., which may account for the scarcity of food in the stomach.

Temperature ranges for the week preceding the finding of the flycatcher and for the week during which it remained in the Mayrant area follow:

Dec. 22-29 High temp. ranges, 74° to 48°
Low temp. ranges, 50° to 28°
Dec. 30-Jan. 5 High temp. ranges, 68° to 49°
Low temp. ranges, 40° to 25°

ARTHUR M. WILCOX, *Charleston, S. C., Jan. 9, 1956*

More Box-nesting by Brown-headed Nuthatches.—At least two more instances of the utilization of man-made nesting-boxes by the Brown-headed Nuthatch, occurring in Charlotte this past year, may now be added to

previous reports (*Chat* 16: 78-80 and 19: 87-88). Unfortunately at the time these two cases occurred, no especial significance was attached and therefore no written records, other than one brief note, are presently available. However, the following information is known and passed on for the record.

The location of both boxes was in a 100 per cent "built-up" residential area in southeastern Charlotte characterized by open lawns and second-growth pine, sweet gum and poplar. As was true in the area reported by Quay, little or no decayed trees or stumps exist; however, many bird boxes are in this area, mostly occupied by House Sparrows.

One of the boxes so occupied was made and placed in his yard by Wayne Davis, a member of the Charlotte Cardinal Bird Club, and was built of unpainted ¾" plywood—the outside dimensions being 5x4½x8½. The 1-⅛" entrance hole was a little less than 2" from the top and a finishing nail projected in front of the hole as a "perch." On each side at the top of the box was an opening 1" wide at the front and sloping with the roof to 0" at the rear. This box faced *west* and was 7' from the ground nailed to a pine tree that was directly on a busy private driveway utilized by 3 vehicles and the neighborhood children and dogs. Mrs. Norwood's notes of April 28 reveal she observed the parent Nuthatches feeding the nestlings. In addition they were seen to enter through the side "ventilating" space rather than the provided entrance hole. This brood successfully left the box at a date not now recalled.

The other box was in the yard of the Shuford Peelers (CBC) and it was close to 200 feet northwest of the Davis box. Facing *northwest* it was over 8' from the ground hanging from the limb (1 foot out from the trunk) of a pine tree. Construction was of both wood and some sort of ⅛" composition material, it was painted a barn red with a black composition shingle roof. Outside dimensions were 3½x8x8½, and the 1" entrance hole was a little over 4" from the top of the box. It was occupied much later than the Davis box (possibly mid-May) and Mrs. Peeler recalls seeing only two Nuthatch fledglings leave the box sometime in June. Mr. Peeler retained the nesting material, and upon examination it was found to consist typically of cedar bark strips, pine seed wings, vacuum cleaner lint and some pine needles and grass.—Joseph R. Norwood, *Charlotte, N. C., January 8, 1956.* (Further in this connection, we have a note from Bill Joyner at Rocky Mount, telling us of at least two other cases in his area. Our comments upon the original case cited by Beers were based upon statments in Bent's *Life Histories.* Earlier examples have been overlooked, or there has been a change in the nesting habits of the Brown-headed Nuthatch.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Winter Record of a Black-capped Warbler at Chapel Hill.—A Black-capped Warbler was observed in Chapel Hill on Dec. 1, 1955, by Miss Peggy Kessler of the University of N. C., Botany Dept., and myself. The bird was watched for several minutes just outside of a second story window of Davie Hall, where it flitted about in some tall shrubbery at a distance of only 6 to 8 feet from us. It was mid-morning and the bird was in full sunlight. The black crown was quite distinct, and I assume the bird was a male.—Oscar H. Paris, Jr. [*Black-capped Warbler, formerly Wilson's—Ed.*]

Charlotte Ceilometer Kill.—The following is a list of the birds picked up by Mrs. E. O. Clarkson and others, at the Municipal Airport, Charlotte, N. C., after the night of September 25, 1955. Temperature 63; Cloud cover 1100 feet, overcast, ground fog; Wind direction North Northeast—velocity 9 miles per hour.

Black-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* 1
Flycatchers—small empidonax 2
(1 slightly under 5" in length and 1 slightly over 5")
Wood Thrush—*Hylocichla mustelina* 3
Olive-backed Thrush—*Hylocichla ustulata* 8
Gray-cheeked Thrush—*Hylocichla minima* 5
Veery—*Hylocichla fuscescens* 5

White-eyed Vireo—*Vireo griseus* 1
Yellow-throated Vireo—*Vireo flavifrons* 1
Red-eyed Vireo—*Vireo olivaceus* 23
(One still alive at present writing Oct. 5th, injured wing)
Black and White Warbler—*Mniotilta varia* 3
Tennessee Warbler—*Vermivora peregrina* 4
Magnolia Warbler—*Dendroica magnolia* (Adult males) 2
Cape May Warbler—*Dendroica tigrina* 1
Blackburnian Warbler—*Dendroica fusca* (Immature) 1
Chestnut-sided Warbler—*Dendroica pensylvanica* 6
Palm Warbler—*Dendroica palmarum* 1
Oven-bird *Seirus aurocapillus* 20
Kentucky Warbler—*Oporornis formosus* (male) 1
Yellowthroat—*Geothlypis trichas* (female) 1
Yellow-breasted Chat—*Icteria virens virens* 7
Hooded Warbler—*Wilsonia citrina* (male) 1
Canada Warbler—*Wilsonia canadensis* 1
Scarlet Tanager—*Piranga olivacea* 9
(3 adult males, 2 immature males, 4 females)
Summer Tanager—*Piranga rubra rubra* (males) 5
Indigo Bunting—*Passerina cyanea* (females) 2

—Sarah H. Nooe, *Queens College, Charlotte, N. C.*

Briefs for the Files.

White Pelican, 1 on sand bank 10 mi. north of Charleston, Oct. 14, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin C. Hoover (Arlington, Va.) **Cattle Egret**, 1 just south of the Ashley River, Charleston, Oct. 30, Robt. Coleman and E. Burnham Chamberlain. **Wood Ibis**—more abundant than usual this fall; 11 at Briarcliff, 6 mi. north of Myrtle Beach, S. C., Sept. 29, Morton L. Church. See Dec. *Chat* for spring migration of Wood Ibis, to which should be added: 2, at Cashier's, Jackson Co., N. C., July 1, 2, and 4, John O. Watkins; 5, June 28, 12, June 29, at Calabash, 2, July 1 at Shallotte both localities on coast in Brunswick Co., N. C. John Funderburg. **Snow Goose**, 1 at Longbow Plantation, Combahee River, S. C., Oct. 25, W. E. Hutson. **Bald Eagle**, 1 adult on Neuse River below Newbern, N. C., Aug. 31, Frank Edgerton III. **Pigeon Hawk**, 1 at Wilmington, Sept. 10, George A. Smith. **Pigeon**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were watched in migration over the Beaufort area in mid-August by T. L. Quay. **Wilson's Snipe**, over 100, Halifax Co., N. C., Nov. 26, Wildlife patrolman Buffalow. **Hudsonian Curlew**, 1 near Mt. Olive, Aug. 12, Robt. Holmes III. **Ruddy Turnstone**, 1 adult near Topsail Inlet, N. C., July 17; 2 adults on Shark Shoal, Beaufort Harbor, Aug. 5, John Funderburg. **Marbled Godwit**, 2 males collected from flock of 14, near Fort Fisher, Wilmington, N. C., June 22, John Funderburg. **Sanderling**, 1 blown into the Mt. Olive area Aug. 12, Rob't. Holmes III. **Common Tern**, 1 captured and banded by Bill Joyner, Aug. 18, Rocky Mount; another seen Aug. 17, at Mt. Olive, Rob't. Holmes III. **Whip-poor-will**, 1 at Troy, N. C., Oct. 20, a very late occurrence, Frances M. Covington. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 1, Raleigh, Sept. 24 & 29, T. L. Quay. **Arkansas Kingbird**, 1 near Secessionville, James Island, S. C., Nov. 14, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Coleman. **Magpie**, 1 escapee perilously at large in the Rocky Mount area from Aug. 15 until—, Bill Joyner. **Sedge Wren**, 2 or more seen and heard singing, Sept. 24, 25, 26, High Point, N. C., James Maddocks. **Tennessee Warbler**, 1 at very close range (4 ft.), Oct. 1, first for the area, New London, John Trott. **Magnolia Warbler**, 1 immature, Sept. 2, Matthews, N. C., E. Burnham Chamberlain. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, 1 found dead in Charlotte city street, Oct. 26 (weight, 9.8 gms.), Sarah Nooe. **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 1 male found dead on Queen College campus, Charlotte, Oct. 19 (wt. 9.9 gms.), Sarah Nooe. **Blackburnian Warbler**, 1 found dead in Charlotte street, Oct. 6, Sarah Nooe. **Bay-breasted Warbler**, 1 at Tryon, N. C., Oct. 31, rather late, Ellison Williams. **American Redstart**, 1, Charlotte, Oct. 5, Sarah Nooe. **Baltimore Oriole**, female, Rocky Mount, Oct. 16, Joyner; 3, Sept. 15 through 26, Mebane yard, Wilmington, Mrs. Appleberry. **Indigo Bunting**, 1 male, singing, New London, Oct. 6, John Trott. All dates 1955.

Founded March 6, 1937 *Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	$1.00	Contributing	$25.00
Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat* and the *Newsletter*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph—Male Osprey bringing catfish to female on nest. By Gordon H. Brown, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Photo by Jim Sparks, Lenoir, N. C.

One distinct line of thought cropped out at the Charlotte meeting. It was a very healthy one, that the Carolina Bird Club must take more initiative, must adopt a more active program in educational work and render a greater service in the field of conservation, especially in the field of wild bird life.

There was a demand for scholarships to the National Audubon Camps and for educational material for schools and garden clubs. The need for such material in hawk protection is great. CBC should become active in promoting more favorable legislation for the protection of all bird life. These were the thoughts that ran through the meeting.

It is true that there is a lot of educational material, already available, and much of it is in use. To secure such material and distribute it to those who need and want it, is quite a task. It is another big job if CBC should undertake to prepare creditable and usable material. Yet there is a wide and useful field for it.

To carry out an educational program and give scholarships to meet the demands offered at the Charlotte meeting will require a great deal more funds than are now available in the CBC treasury. The meeting realized this and some discussion was given to the problem. To carry forward such an active program new sources of income must be tapped. It seems entirely possible that some plans could be worked out that would enable the club to do some of the really worthwhile things it should do.

It was suggested in Charlotte that our by-laws be amended so as to add other classifications of memberships. One of these was the addition of an industrial membership. No doubt this would bring in some funds if it were properly and actively promoted. Another suggestion was that of securing more gifts and still another was the proposal to get more regular members to increase their fees to bring them into the supporting or sustaining membership classification. There were suggestions also that the regular membership fees be increased from one dollar a year to two.

There was another worthwhile suggestion which concerned the slowly growing endowment fund. This was that the club adopt a definite purpose for the fund. This should be done and no doubt will be done at an early meeting.

All of these suggestions and demands coming out of the Charlotte meeting are matters for serious consideration, not only by the executive committee, but for the membership as a whole.

The discussions were open and vigorous and the demand was that the club move forward in usefulness. It was good. Your new president believes they would lead to a more active and useful Carolina Bird Club.

I am very proud to serve in an effort to help work out these problems.

FRED H. MAY

THE BIRDS IN LAWSON'S

"NEW VOYAGE TO CAROLINA", 1709—Last Installment

W. L. McAtee

Green Plover. Unidentifiable; the basis of his inaccurate allusions may have been the Killdeer. (p. 140).

Gray Plover. There is nothing identifiable in this account, which harks back to the European Gray Plover (the Black-bellied Plover). (p. 140).

Pigeons. Passenger Pigeon (pp. 140-142). This account repeats some of the matter already quoted from his Journal. Additional remarks of interest are that the birds occurred in the coastal region in great flocks "in the Year 1707, which was the hardest Winter that ever was known, since *Carolina* has been seated by the Christians." (p. 180). About a hundred and fifty miles to the westward "these Pigeons come down, in quest of a small sort of Acorns, which in those Parts are plentifully found. They are the same we call Turkey-Acorns, because the wild Turkies feed very much thereon; And for the same reason, those trees that bear them, are call'd Turkey-Oaks." (p. 141). "It is observable, that wherever these Fowl come in such Numbers, as I saw them . . . they clear all before them, scarce leaving one Acorn upon the Ground, which would, doubtless, be a great Prejudice to the Planters that should seat there, because their Swine would be thereby depriv'd of their Mast." (p. 141). This is an early statement of the incompatibility of Passenger Pigeons and agriculture.

Turtle Doves. Doubtless Mourning Doves, though nothing distinctive is mentioned; they were destructive to peas and accordingly were trapped. (p. 142).

Parakeeto's. Carolina Paroquet. "They visit us first, when Mulberries are ripe, which Fruit they love extremely. They peck the Apples to eat the Kernels, so that the Fruit rots and perishes . . . They are often taken alive, and will become familiar and tame in two days . . . They devour the Birch-Buds in *April*, and lie hidden when the Weather is frosty and hard." (p. 142).

Thrushes. Unidentifiable. (p. 142).

Woodpeckers. Four sorts mentioned; the first was a large woodpecker and the description, so far as it goes, fits the Ivory-bill; though that distinctive feature is not mentioned. The second with olive and yellow in its plumage, though poorly described, must have been the Yellow-shafted Flicker (p. 142). The third was the Red-headed Woodpecker. It "is a Plague to the Corn and Fruit; especially the Apples. He opens the Covering of the young Corn, so the Rain gets in, and rots it." (p. 143). His fourth sort was either the Downy or Hairy Woodpecker, probably the former (p. 143).

Mocking-bird. The same as now so-called. They "are held to be the Choristers of *America*, as indeed they are. They sing with the greatest Diversity of Notes, that is possible for a Bird to change to. They may be bred up, and will sing with us tame in Cages; yet I never take any of their Nests, altho' they build yearly in my Fruit-Trees, because I have their Company, as much as if tame, as to the singing Part. They often sit upon

our Chimneys in Summer . . . and sing the whole Evening and most part of the Night. They are always attending our Dwellings; and feed upon Mulberries and other Berries and Fruits; especially the *Mechoacan-berry* [poke berry], which grows here very plentiful." (p. 143).

Ground-Mocking-Bird. Brown Thrasher (p. 143).

Cat-Bird. The same as now. "They are no bigger than a Lark, yet will fight a Crow or any other great Bird." (p. 143).

Cuckoo. Two species are, of course included. "sucks the Small-Birds Eggs." (p. 143).

Blue-Bird, As now so-called. "They hide themselves all the Winter." (p. 144). Bulfinch, Nightingale, Hedge Sparrow, Wren, and Sparrow are all set down as remembered from Europe; all are unidentifiable. (p. 144).

Lark. Eastern Meadowlark (p. 144).

Red-Birds. Cardinal (p. 144).

East-India Bats. Common Nighthawk.

Martins. Two sorts, of which only one can be identified, namely, the Purple Martin. "The Planters put Gourds on standing Poles, on purpose for these Fowl to build in, because they are a very Warlike Bird, and beat the Crows from the Plantations." (pp. 144-145).

Swift. "The Swift, or Diveling, the same as in *England*." While that is not true, his meaning the Chimney Swift can not be mistaken. (p. 145).

Swallows. No species particularized. (p. 145).

Humming-Bird. Like most of the early chroniclers, Lawson was entranced by the Ruby-throat; it was entirely different from any bird they had known in Europe. Hear him. "The Humming-Bird is the Miracle of all our wing'd Animals. He is feather'd as a Bird, and gets his Living as the Bees, by sucking the Honey from each Flower. In some of the larger sort of Flowers, he will busy himself, by diving to suck the bottom of it, so that he is quite cover'd, and oftentimes Children catch them in these Flowers, and keep them alive for five or six days. They are of different Colours, the Cock differing from the Hen . . . He is much less than a Wren, and very nimble. His nest is one of the greatest Pieces of Workmanship the whole Tribe of wing'd Animals can shew . . . The Eggs are the Bigness of Pease." (p. 145).

Tom Tit. "The Tom-Tit, or Ox-Eyes as in England" (p. 145). There are 5 endemic races of Titmice in England, so we can assign no one of their names to the bird or birds Lawson had in mind.

Owls, including Scritch Owls. None really identifiable. (p. 145).

Baltimore-Bird, Baltimore Oriole. (p. 145).

Throstle, that is, the British Song-Thrush; we have no exact counterpart, but several analogous species, no one of which can be connected with this reference. (p. 145).

Weet Bird. "The Weet, so call'd because he cries always before Rain; he resembles nearest the Fire-tail" (that is, the European Redstart) . . . Unidentifiable. (p. 145).

Cranes and Storks. The storks are not differentiated and are unidentifiable; the cranes were Sandhill Cranes. "Cranes use the Savannas, low Ground, and Frogs; they are above five Foot high, when extended; are of a Cream Colour, and have a Crimson Spot on the Crown of their Heads. Their Quills are excellent for Pens; their Flesh makes the best Broth, yet is very hard to digest. . . . The Cranes are easily bred (p. 145) up tame, and are

excellent in a Garden to destroy Frogs, Worms, and other Vermine." (pp. 145-146).

Snow-Birds. "They visit us sometimes in *Carolina*, when the Weather is harder than ordinary. They are like the Stones Smach, or Wheat-Ears, and are delicate Meat." Snow Bunting. (p. 146).

Yellow Wings (p. 146). Unidentifiable.

Whippoo-Will. We spell it Whip-poor-will. (p. 146).

Red Sparrow. "the most common Small-Bird we have . . . brown, and red, cinnamon Colour striped." (p. 146). Yet I think, unidentifiable.

Swans. "we have two sorts; the one we call Trompeters; because of a sort of trompeting Noise they make. . . . The sort of Swans call'd Hoopers are the least. They abide more in the Salt-Water . . . (p. 146). Subsequent evidence allows only a single species of swan, the Whistling, in North Carolina, and we must rely on it. They have little to do with salt water.

Wild Geese. Canada Geese. (p. 146).

Gray Brants. American Brant. (p. 147).

White Brant. Snow Goose. (p. 147).

Sea-Pie, or Curlue. A large shore bird with yellow bill and legs. Unidentifiable. (p. 147).

Will Willet. Now known by the latter name. (p. 147).

Great gray Gull. "The great gray Gulls are good Meat, and as large as a Pullet. They lay large Eggs, which are found in very great Quantities, on the Islands in our Sound, in the Months of *June* and *July*." (p. 147). Taken at face value, this would indicate breeding of the Herring Gull in North Carolina, but there are no recent records.

Old Wives. Black Skimmer, from its garrulity. (p. 147).

Sea-Cock. Unidentifiable. (p. 147).

Curlues. "there are three sorts, and vast Numbers of each. They have all long Bills, and differ neither in Colour, nor Shape, only in Size." (p. 147). Thus we must credit him with the Eskimo, the Hudsonian, and the Long-billed Curlews.

Coots. Probably Scoters. (p. 147).

Kingfisher. The Belted Kingfisher. (p. 147).

Loons, two sorts. Common and Red-throated Loons. (p. 147).

Bitterns. "We have three sorts of Bitterns in Carolina" (p. 148). These seem to "boil down" to two, of which one is the American, and the other probably the Least Bittern.

Herns. That is herons: "We have the same Herns as in *England*" (p. 148). This statement is so in need of qualification that no identifications based on it are warranted.

White Herns. "I have seen above thirty sit on one Tree, at a time. They are as white as Milk, and fly very slowly" (p. 148). Probably the American Egret.

Water Pheasant. Probably the Hooded Merganser. (p. 148).

Little gray Gull (p. 148). Unidentifiable.

Dipper (p. 148). Unidentifiable.

Duck and Mallard. The Mallard; present day sportsmen will be surprised to learn that, "They are accounted the coarsest sort of our Water-Fowl." (p. 148).

Black Duck. The same as now so-called. "She stays with us all the Summer, and breeds. These are made tame by some, and prove good Domesticks." (p. 148).

Summer Duck (p. 148). The Wood Duck.

Whistling duck (p. 148). Perhaps the Common Golden-eye or Whistler.

Scarlet Ey'd Duck. His reference to these ducks in the country of the *Esaw-Indians* (see p. 44) shows that they were Wood Ducks.

Blue Wings. (p. 148). Blue-winged Teal.

Widgeon. "Widgeons, the same as in Europe, are here in great Plenty." (p. 149). He means the American Widgeon, although the European species probably occurred sparingly in eastern North Carolina then, as it does today.

Teals two sorts (p. 149). Considering that he had already accounted for the Blue-wing, these doubtless were the male and female Green-winged Teal.

Shovellers . . . "are gray, with a black head" (p. 149). Thus, they were Scaups, of which two species occur. These birds are called shufflers (referring to their spattering along the water while taking flight); so there is good ground for confusion in name with the spoon-billed duck or Shoveller.

Whistlers (p. 149). Probably the Common Golden-eye; see sixth preceding group.

Black Flusterers, or Bald-Coot. "Some call these Old Wives . . . some . . . the great bald Coot" (p. 149). Surf Scoter (see note by the compiler in *The Auk*, 1946, (63: 242-243).

Turkeys. The Eastern Turkey. Two-thirds of a page of comment, from which are excerpted: "I have seen about five hundred in a Flock . . . I never weigh'd any myself, but have been inform'd of one that weigh'd near sixty Pound Weight . . . They feed on Acorns, Huckle-Berries, and many other sorts of Berries that *Carolina* affords." (p. 149).

Fisherman (p. 150). Mergansers, species not distinguished.

Divers. "Two sorts" (p. 150). Unidentifiable.

Raft-Fowl. Includes several sorts. Not specifically distinguished. (p. 150).

Bull-Necks. Probably Canvas-backs. (p. 150).

Red-Heads. Still called the Redhead. (p. 150).

Tropick-Birds (p. 150). If Carolinian, probably the Yellow-billed Tropicbird, but he may have recalled it from his trip to Barbados.

Pellican (p. 150). Nothing in the account to distinguish the species.

Cormorans (p. 150). Double-crested Cormorant.

Gannet (p. 150). The bird now so-called.

Shear-Water (pp. 150-151.) Unidentifiable, though it may be that he had the Black Skimmer in mind.

Pied-Gull (p. 151). Laughing Gull.

Marsh-Hen (p. 151). Probably the Florida Gallinule.

Blue-Peters (p. 151). American Coot.

Sand-Birds (p. 151). Doubtless includes several species of shore birds.

Runners (p. 151). Same remark.

Tutcocks (p. 151). Probably he meant the European Judcock or Jacksnipe, which has never been taken in the Carolinas.

Swaddle-Bills (p. 151). Apparently the Shoveller.

Mew (p. 151). Possibly the Common Tern.

Sheldrakes. "The same as in *England*" (p. 151). A record not certainly verified.

Baldfaces (p. 151). American Widgeon.
Water-Witch (p. 151). Grebes, not identifiable to species.

From his Account of the Indians of North Carolina

"Their Feather Match-Coats are very pretty . . . some . . . are made of the green Part of the Skin of a Mallard's Head, which they sew perfectly well together . . . When these are finish'd, they look very finely, though they must needs be very troublesome to make." (p. 191).

"Some of the *Indians* wear great Bobs in their Ears, and sometimes in the Holes thereof they put Eagles and other Birds, Feathers, for a Trophy." (p. 193).

"Of Turkeys they have abundance; especially in Oak-Land, as most of it is, that lies any distance backwards [that is, toward the mountains]. I have been often in their Hunting-Quarters, where a roasted or barbakued Turkey, eaten with Bears Fat, is held a good Dish; and indeed, I approve of it very well." (p. 207).

"In some parts, where Pigeons are plentiful, they get of their Fat enough to supply their Winter Stores." (p. 208).

Summary

In his list of Land Fowl, Lawson had also the Rice-bird (p. 136), which we know was primarily the Bobolink but included other species that fed upon rice. Ignoring that, and disregarding slight variations in names, he recorded about sixty-seven Land Fowl and sixty-two Water Fowl. It was the most extensive list of American birds of its time. According to the present review, thirty-one of the land birds and thirty of the water birds (an additional 8 questionably) can be identified with present specific concepts.

ADDITIONAL CAROLINA BIRDS IN BRICKELL'S

W. L. McAtee

A fuller reference to this curious book is:

Brickell, John

1737. The Natural History of North-Carolina. With an Account of the Trade, Manners and Customs of the Christian and Indian Inhabitants . . . &c. Dublin, viii + 408 pp., 1 folded map, folded plate. Reprinted in 1737, 1743, and probably other dates.

I call the work "curious" because it is largely a compilation, which, so far as its natural history contents are concerned, makes no mention of their sources. Of these, John Lawson's "A New Voyage to Carolina", 1709, is most important. In fact, without it Brickell's book could not have been prepared.

In reading his chapter, "Of the Birds" (pp. 171-214), one is so strongly reminded of Lawson's work as to feel that it has been literally copied. However, close examination shows that to be true of only a few of the accounts of groups of birds. Brickell usually varied the language and made numerous additions, most noticeably those relating to medicinal uses of parts or products of birds. He was of Irish derivation and where Lawson used the word, England, Brickell substituted Ireland. He lived

and practiced medicine at Edenton, North Carolina, and made a westward journey, 1730-1731, in which he seems to have reached what is now the eastern part of Tennessee. He had a better sense of organization than did Lawson, both for his entire book and for the bird list.

Ignoring minor changes in names, the groups of birds treated by Brickell, which are additional to those of Lawson, are:

Black Eagles (pp. 171, 172-173). Immature Bald Eagles.

Kites (p. 175). Unidentifiable.

Owls (pp. 177-179). His white owl is a mixture of the Snowy Owl and of that described by Lawson, with the Great Horned Owl in mind, but not identifiable from his remarks. Brickell's Brown Owl, by elimination, is the Barred Owl; his Barn-Owl is that still so-called, and his Screech-Owl, doubtless referring to the American bird we now know by that name is said to be "the same as those in Europe," which is not the case. By being a little more definite, he makes four additions to Lawson's roster.

Rooks (p. 180). Another name for Lawson's Crows; and like them unidentifiable as between the American and Fish Crows.

Black small-Crows (p. 181). These are Lawson's Black-Birds, of which only one, the Red-winged, is identifiable from either author.

Wood-pecker, five sorts (pp. 187-189). That added to Lawson's four is unidentifiable.

Red-birds (pp. 190-191). That without topping, or crest, must have been the Summer Tanager and is additional to Lawson's list.

Field-fair (p. 191). The Field Fare of Europe, not known from the Carolinas.

Kill-Deer (p. 192). The bird at present so-called; not in Lawson's catalogue.

Shag (p. 212). If this had any basis, it was the female or young of the Doublecrested Cormorant.

The argument for paid governmental investigators for the improvement of natural knowledge, at the end of the chapter on birds, is from John Oldmixon's "The British Empire in America", 1708.

Summary

The number of nominal species in Brickell's groups is about 131. Of these, seventy-one can be reduced to modern specific nomenclature, three of them with question marks.

— CBC —

The Tryon Bird Club announces the printing of a list of birds of Tryon, N. C., compiled by A. M. Dimick from the lists of C. C. West, 1942, G. H. Holmes, April 1950, and Ellison A. Williams, whose list was published in *The Chat* of May-September, 1951, with additional names by members of the Tryon Bird Club.

A recent letter from Mrs. A. W. Brintnall, Tryon, N. C., states that the Tryon Bird Club is working on a bookplate for use by the club when presenting gift copies of books to schools, libraries, etc. Members of the Tryon Bird Club will be privileged to use this bookplate. Mrs. Brintnall suggests that other clubs and individuals might wish to purchase prints of this bookplate for their own use. For further information on this generous offer write Mrs. Brintnall, Seven Hearths, Tryon, N. C.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OSPREY

Story and Photography by GORDON H. BROWN

The nesting activities of a pair of Ospreys are extremely interesting to any bird watcher who is fortunate enough to have them under close observation. This is the time of year when at least one of the birds remains close to the nest, and often both are present at the same time.

Upon returning to their traditional nesting site in late February or early March the birds immediately begin work on their lofty platform. Successive years of nest building at the same site produces a massive structure of interwoven sticks and moss as much as six feet across. Close watching reveals the nest itself to be an active community, with insects such as wasps and ants living amongst the sticks. Lizards lay on the sunny side of the structure, now and then darting forward to secure a delicious ant or some other tantalizing insect.

The striking pattern of the bird's markings, its large size and strong flight make for an interesting show when the bird is aloft. It can quickly be separated from the other large soaring hawks by the definite bent back position of the wings and the whiteness of the underbody. Its glide is effortless and in flight the bird makes efficient use of air currents. The most spectacular moment comes when the bird sees a fish in the water and decides to try for dinner. Coming to a halt in mid-air, it hangs suspended on heavily beating wings. Then with wings folded back the bird plummets into the water headfirst with talons stretched forward to grasp the fish. It often disappears completely beneath the surface, but quickly rises amidst a shower of spray as it blasts its way upward on pounding wings. Sometimes large fish are taken. The Osprey is able to dive into the swift waters of river rapids as well as into the smooth waters of a millpond. In flying with his catch the bird holds the fish with the head forward to reduce the air resistance.

Many fishermen malign the bird, often killing it, under the false impression that it is responsible for their poor fishing. It can be very strongly argued that the opposite is true, and that the fish hawk is in reality aiding the fisherman. Ospreys feed heavily on rough fish, such as carp and catfish, as they are the most easily caught. This reduces the competition with the more desirable game fish for the available food, which allows game fish to grow to a larger size.

Ospreys are not aggressive and do not molest other birds. The Bald Eagle often takes advantage of his larger size and will repeatedly dive upon an Osprey that has succeeded in catching a fish until the Osprey is forced to release his catch to escape the attack of the aggressor. The Eagle then dives after the falling fish, retrieves it in mid-air, and departs with his burglarized meal. During the nesting season, however, the tables are sometimes turned when the Eagle finds himself being blitzkrieged by the second Fish Hawk as he is making his pass on the first. The two birds are more than enough to make him depart empty-handed.

Female Osprey returns to nest. Photo courtesy S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.

The shyness of the Osprey causes it to quickly voice its shrill whistle of alarm and fly off the nest when disturbed. It does not attack an intruder as some of the other hawks do, but will sit on a high limb at a respectable distance and continue to give its shrill call.

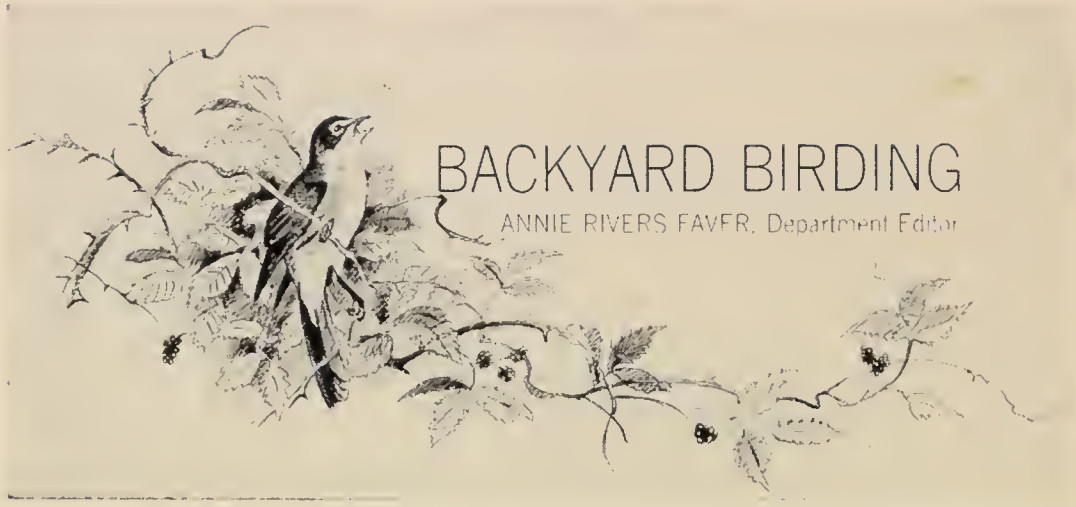
The female will soon become used to repeated disturbances, if not harmed, and quickly return to the nest. Often the photographer can not fully set up his equipment after entering his blind before she is firmly settled on her eggs again.

The eggs, usually three, are laid in early April in South Carolina and a little later in North Carolina. They are buff colored, marked with large splotches of reddish brown or chocolate.

The female remains with the eggs a great deal during the incubation period of about twenty-eight days. She will stay away from them for some time during the cooler portion of the early morning, but is very reluctant to leave them long exposed to the direct rays of the midday sun.

While she patiently tends to her household duties, the male takes care of the necessary fishing to provide them both with food. When the young are being fed it is often necessary to range wide distances to find enough fish to satisfy their demands. One favorite fishing ground of many fish-eating birds is below the tailrace of a large dam. Here great numbers of upstream-moving fish are concentrated and dead fish are discharged from the lake above. Ospreys are often found soaring over such spots of easy fishing with their associates the anhingas, herons, egrets, cormorants, gulls and terns.

It would seem that any invcterate fisherman who developed an interest in watching birds would soon acquire a strong kinship with the Osprey who has to catch his fish the hard way.



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

We are so glad to have some reports from CBC members for this department. Please continue to send any items that you find interesting, so that I may pass them on to all our readers.

In our yard now are one bobbed tailed White-throated Sparrow, and a Brown Thrasher whose tail is just beginning to grow out. I have often wondered how birds lost their tails—here is an amusing paragraph from Mr. B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C., which might explain what happens!

On Saturday morning (March 17, 1956) while watching the activity at our feeder here at Critter Hill, I noticed a particularly bellicose White-throated Sparrow making a nuisance of itself among its fellows and "next of kin". It was in a group of birds on the ground before me and, in rather dull plumage, it looked unwashed. Any bird that came within a few inches of it was promptly lunged at. Most of the offenders simply side-stepped and went on feeding.

Soon a female, or young male, Purple Finch moved within range and failed to appear frightened by the display of the sparrow. The White-throat promptly seized it by the end of its tail. The finch danced desperately while the sparrow held firmly and braced itself. Neither bird used its wings and the foot-work of the finch carried the pair clockwise through a complete 360°, pivoted on the White-throat. Then the Purple Finch broke away, or was released, and fled to a limb a few yards away. In a moment it regained its composure but I was unable to follow its fortunes as it was soon lost to me among the constantly shifting birds around the feeder.

We have frequently had Carolina Wrens come into our house, where they hop around until we prop a door open for them to move on out to the yard again. Also, Swifts come down our living room fireplace almost every spring. They have to be caught and put out, first calling the attention of the children to the spines at the end of the tail feathers, that help hold them against the brick wall of the chimney. I thought the following report unusual:

Upon my return home after having been out for possibly 45 minutes, I became aware of some unusual commotion in our den. I was surprised to discover a Mockingbird fluttering around, perching on potted plants, and attempting to go through the windows. Telltale ashes scattered on the hearth in the living room gave mute evidence that he had made his entry by coming down the chimney. I expedited an exit by opening our side door and shooing the mocker in that direction. I think he was quite relieved to get out.—Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Jr., *Charlotte, N. C., January 11, 1956.*

All of us like to find a rare species. Here is a bit of good reasoning from Mrs. David V. Gleaton, Springfield, S. C.:

On January 17, 1956, I saw a very brilliant bird in a hackberry tree just outside my window. It was very shy and restless, but did not stop not more than ten feet from my window long enough for me to get a good look at him. I was sure it was an oriole, but it was much too bright for the Orchard Oriole, which is the only one I am familiar with. I studied him very carefully, because I knew he would be gone in a second if I made a move to get my book or glasses.

Sure enough, in a few minutes he flew away. I immediately got the *Field Guide* and looked for orioles, but was not quite satisfied with what I found. Only two were listed . . . the Orchard Oriole was out; the Baltimore seemed to have too much black about the head and the orange was not bright enough. However, since I had never seen a Baltimore, I decided that they must be much more brilliant than I had imagined, and that this must have been a young male, with the black not quite developed.

Then on January 26, I got the February issue of the *National Geographic* with the pictures of the *Spotted Oriole!* It was so much like the bird I had seen! If only I could have had the *Geographic* before I saw the bird!

Several weeks later, I was looking through the *Audubon Bird Guide* and found that there were five kinds of orioles listed, and three of them looked so much like the bird I had seen! But none are supposed to be in this part of the country. So I have about come to the conclusion that I saw a Baltimore, after all. But I still like to think that it just might have been a Spotted Oriole!—*March 19, 1956*

Further notes on the Baltimore Oriole from Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C.:

A female Baltimore Oriole was first seen at my feeder on January 11, and is still coming at this writing. (First week in April.) It does not live in the yard, but just comes for food, then flies away to the woods . . . always in the same direction. On February 18, there were two of the Orioles, both females, in a dogwood near the feeder. They were threatening to fight, and soon joined in combat, falling to the ground, one on its back, the other striking it furiously with her sharp beak. I was about to go separate them when they flew up and away to the woods, one chasing the other. Occasionally after that I saw the two, but though they seemed each time to be in a fighting mood, nothing more happened. The last half of March and up to this far in April I have seen only one at any one time. This is a quiet, shy bird, and I never hear it utter a note.

At noon on February 18, when my son-in-law parked his car in his yard next door, he saw a strange bird on the limb of a water oak nearby. I looked out my dining room window and saw him walking hurriedly toward my back door. I began stepping in a hurry, too, for we were expecting a big event at his house about then. (The new grandson arrived three days later.) Before either Barney or I had reached the back door, he called: "Come out here, Bird Woman, and see this bird!" Essie Mae came out with her Audubon Guide and in a minute or two we had identified the bird as a female Evening Grosbeak; Neither of us had ever seen one before. I was surprised to find a lone bird of this species when other observers in the Carolinas had reported having found them in flocks. I saw two Evening Grosbeaks on my backyard feeder about noon on March 21. I immediately walked through the house and out on the front porch, and there on the ground and perched on low limbs of the trees, I counted ten birds. One bright colored male was not more than six or eight feet from me! What a thrill! I had some sunflower seeds Kay Sisson had sent me from Columbia. I put out a generous supply on both feeders and sprinkled some on the ground. The birds were not shy, and readily accepted my invitation to

Evening Grosbeaks on feeder at the home of Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C. Photo by Mrs. W. B. Dawsey

lunch. The Grosbeaks, up to seventeen in number, continued to come each morning from six to seven o'clock, and at intervals from then until noon, for nine days. Each time, they would eat greedily from the feeders, and drink thirstily from the birdbath. By the tenth day, my supply of sunflower seeds was exhausted, and none could be found in Aynor or Conway. No other foods that I offered were accepted. Then the birds started dropping off in numbers. A few are still here, and I am wondering what they are eating. This morning about eleven o'clock, I heard some chirping in the trees, and four came down to drink water and to look on the feeders for seed. Their chirps remind me somewhat of the notes of English Sparrows. I was not able to determine just how many of each color were in the flock of seventeen birds. There were several full-plumaged males, which were indeed beautiful. More than half the number were wearing the duller plumage.—*April 5, 1956.*

— CBC —

Annual Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club

A hundred and thirteen members and guests of the Carolina Bird Club gathered for their annual meeting on March 24, 1956, at the Barringer Hotel, Charlotte, N. C. The Mecklenburg Audubon Club, Cardinal Bird Club and Carolina Wren Club surpassed themselves as hosts.

The morning was taken up by a very stimulating papers session which included an illustrated lecture by Douglas Wade on the South Carolina Conservation Camp in action, followed by an informal talk and spirited discussion of hawk depredation by Gordon Brown. J. B. Shuler, Jr., gave an excellent paper on bird navigation and its relationship to migration.

An absorbing lecture with colored slides made up the afternoon program by R. D. Edwards, on his experiences at Hudson Bay on an expedition in 1953. A business session followed with reports and election of officers. (Names appear on back cover.)

Members were invited to tea in the Terrace Room after which two well-conducted tours to Queens College Biology Department where several interesting exhibits had been arranged, and a visit to the Charlotte Children's Nature Museum, were enjoyed.

The banquet was held at 7:00 in the evening at which Charlotte Hilton Green gave a splendid lecture on her nine weeks tour of the African continent, using colored slides. The membership was entertained at Sunday morning breakfast at Wing Haven, home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson. Walks before and after in the beautiful garden sent many a heart away singing! Thanks to the host clubs and chairman, Mrs. George Potter, for a really fine meeting.—*Ed.*

ADVENTURES THROUGH CAMPING

Douglas E. Wade, Education Assistant, S. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Columbia, S. C.

When, through the South Carolina Conservation Camp, each camper and the staff gets a finer understanding of the fact that all plant and animal life and soil and water, as well as human beings, are inter-related in a "web of life", that is true adventuring.

To give annually a selected group of over a hundred high school boys and girls in South Carolina a chance to explore the inter-relationships of life that are shown in soils, water, plant and animal communities, the S. C. Conservation Camp was started.

This camp, co-sponsored by the Garden Club of South Carolina and the S. C. Wildlife Federation, got off to a fine start in June, 1955. A second season of this one-week of living in an organized camp area in Cheraw State Park is soon coming up June 3-9, 1956. Already fifty-nine girls and fifty-four boys are enrolled, their way paid for by sponsoring clubs. A total of one hundred first-year campers, nine second-year campers and eight special teachers, in addition to a staff of about twenty-five will be on hand when camp opens.

By the end of a week in camp, all first-year campers will have had four hours *in the field* in these major subject matters: (1) soils and soil moisture conservation; (2) forest communities and wild plants; (3) water as a resource and communities of life in water habitats; and (4) fundamentals of animal ecology and wildlife management.

An all-day field trip on Friday to private farms, a state forest and a national wildlife refuge will help to wrap up the practical application of some of the fundamentals learned earlier in the week.

Instructors and all other staff members, except those brought in special for the Friday field trip, live at camp throughout the week. This arrangement enables the campers to get to know the staff members and the "rapport" is excellent. Campers have many opportunities when they can discuss problems with the staff of conservation and resource-use, as well as training necessary to work in related fields. The staff also doubles on the job by holding special "skills" periods during the day. Such skills as map reading, aerial photography interpretation, compass work, "Orienteering"—games with compass and maps; plant identification, bird walks, bird identification practice, water and boat safety, gun and hunting safety, archery, tracking animals and photography are among those that can be offered. This part of the program depends on the background and training of the staff.

There is the usual fun of camping, too: Camp fires, singing, stunts, cabin and unit group discussions, housekeeping, setting tables and early morning bird and nature walks. Movies and slides extend some of the knowledge gained on field work. Folk dancing, showing relationship to impact of the "land" on various peoples through the ages, is learned. A big all-camp "barn" dance on Friday night almost brings down the roof.

Crossing beaver dam—water and wildlife—Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge near McBee, South Carolina.

Photos by Gordon H. Brown, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.

The standards of program, safety, waterfront care, food preparation, sanitation, staff, and records are all maintained as highly as possible. The 1955 camp was accredited by the American Camping Association and was one of four camps so accredited in the State in 1955. The standards of camping as set forth by the ACA are high. Such standards are valuable in improving organized camping throughout the nation.

This second year we shall have two special projects undertaken by second-year campers. Four boys will make a survey of beaver on the National Sandhills Wildlife Refuge just a few miles from camp. They will also plan a short film on beaver and later in the summer return to make this film on location. It is estimated that there are over six hundred beaver on this refuge which is managed by Paul Sturm who is known to many CBC members. Paul used to be manager at Pea Island and also at Cape Romain.

Life in a drop of water, as well as importance of water to life, is demonstrated.

The five girls will re-examine the Junior Garden Club program of South Carolina. There are one hundred and ninety-two Junior Garden Clubs in South Carolina and several thousand youngsters involved. Any suggestions made for enrichment of this Junior Garden Club program will be most valuable. Study of bird life as a part of Junior Garden Club programs will come in for much discussion.

Eight teachers, guests of the camp, will observe the camp program, prepare a report with much thought given to possibilities of setting up a teacher-training camp in 1957.

(A reprint describing the 1955 camp is available and can be obtained by writing the author at Box 303, Columbia, S. C. A slide report on the camp was given at the recent meeting of CBC at Charlotte, N. C. Incidentally, this is one of the most unique experiments in conservation camping in the southeast.—*Ed.*)

Soil, which supports all plant and animal life and human beings, is pointed out by M. W. Sullivan of Soil Conservation Service.

BOOKS

A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology. Olin Sewell Pettingill, Jr., Burgess Publishing Co., 426 So. Sixth St., Minneapolis 15, Minn. Third edition, 1956. 388 pages and 180 pen and ink illustrations by W. J. Breckenridge, Director, Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Minn. Size 8½x11. $5.00. A new edition, completely revised and expanded, represents enormous strides in making this unique manual a boon in both laboratory and field work for either professional or amateur ornithologist, teacher or bird watcher. Twenty-two separate sections with physiology, classification, migration, identification, bird communities and territories; songs, mating, nests, breeding and populations, to mention some of the fields extensively covered. Seven appendices on field methods, preparation of papers, a long list of bibliographies and suggested books for correlated reading and enjoyment completes the manual. Unqualifiedly recommended for use by bird clubs, many members of whom have never had the opportunity of regular courses in ornithology. An able leader using the Pettingill manual could bring invaluable knowledge, further enjoyment in bird study and greatly widen the horizons of such groups.—K.C.S.

Birds of the World. By Paul Barruel. Oxford University Press. March 15, 1955. 204 Pages. $12.50. Striking paintings by the author, Paul Barruel of France, and scores of remarkable photographs by Eric Hoskins, Roger Tory Peterson, John Barlee, and others, make this handsome bird book an important contribution.

The author depicts, by picture and word, bird life throughout the world—Prairie Chickens on the American plains, Birds of Paradise in New Guinae, Pittas in Borneo, Skuas in the Antarctic. He skillfully describes odd bird behavior, such as the nesting of Hornbills, winter flocking of Wrens, unusual feeding habits of Magpies and Crows, the pecularities of the Woodpecker-finch of the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. Barruel covers such subjects as the daily rhythm, locomotion, reproduction, song and territory, migration, population fluctuation, with the keen insight of a naturalist and the charm of an artist.

The preface is by Francois Bourliere, the translation by Phyllis Barclay-Smith. The book has an index of birds, a small bibliography and a page of bird classification. There are 200 illustrations, in color—ROBERT OVERING.

Birds of the Chicago Region. Edward R. Ford, The Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2001 No. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Revised edition of the 1934 publication. 117-page annotated list of 382 species and sub-species (11 new species added). For sale at a nominal price.—K.C.S.

CBC Annual Spring Field Trip

Clemson, S. C., was chosen by CBC for its spring get-together on May 4, 5 & 6. About 70 members and guests were present and from all reports a great time was enjoyed by all. Several trips to Lake Issaqueena and the dam, various parts of the Clemson Land Use Area and much intensive observing on the vast campus, netted a count of 119 species on Saturday. Additional species were seen Friday and Sunday, probably bringing the total up near 125 for the week-end. An early Saturday afternoon visit to the museum and a tour of the new Ceramics Building were very interesting. A picnic supper was served in the evening after which a meeting was held at the Clemson House. Colored slides belonging to CBCers were shown, evidencing considerable talent among our members. A brief meeting of the Ex. Comm. was called to discuss a location for the fall meetings and a committee composed of G. J. Bristow, Mrs. Wm. Faver and Kay Sisson, was appointed to look into the offering of the scholarship to an Audubon Nature Camp this year, to a worthy person in South Carolina. *(More members should come to the CBC meetings, they're getting better and better!)—Ed.*

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Again during the past winter, Evening Grosbeaks came into the Carolinas in substantial numbers but somewhat below the 1954-55 figures, thereby upsetting some theories designed to explain irregular irruptions. A summary is withheld for a future issue since some of the birds are with us as of this writing. Please let us have any reports not already turned in.

There have been few reports of unusual species. Spring arrived without major late killing freezes. At least fifty White Pelicans wintered at Romain Refuge on the upper South Carolina coast. Wildfowl populations were thought to be above average.

CORRECTION: Arthur Stupka has kindly called to our attention our omission from the Great Smoky Mountain Christmas count in the Mar. '56 *Chat* of: Great Horned Owl, 1; Eastern Phoebe, 10; Evening Grosbeak, 75. We regret the error, however, two of these species were in our mms.

LATE BULLETIN: The first Cattle Egret to be recorded from North Carolina has been taken in Bladen County, near Kelly, N. C., on Apr. 29, by David Adams. Details to follow.

Glossy Ibises in Eastern North Carolina.—I happened to be driving along at Old Town—near Rocky Mount, N. C.—today, Apr. 8, when I saw a strange bird dropping down to a water hole ahead. It was around 11 a.m. I stopped my car and got out and got my glasses on it as it settled. I had first thought it was a Little Blue Heron. On the ground, I saw the decurved bill and the bronzy metallic sheen. It was a Glossy Ibis. In a few minutes it flew off toward the south and I took off after it.

At the back end of the farm, near the Tar River, I found the ibis in the air, among some crows I had flushed. I watched it sail for probably five minutes or more. I'm not saying that it associated with the crows, but as it flew out of sight there was a crow or two in the view of my glasses. This gave me a good chance to compare flight. The Glossy Ibis flapped and sailed, slipped and darted right much in the strong winds. Its wings were bent at "elbows" like a tern or kite, rather than sharp pointed.—BILL JOYNER, ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. Another observation on the same day is also interesting: "On Sunday, Apr. 8, John Thompson of Rocky Mount, saw two adult Glossy Ibises on Alligator River—or lake—between Dare and Tyrrell Counties. He had his glasses and was within 50 feet of the

birds. I know him well enough to say that there is no error in this report.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

Behavior: Herons.—In a large heron colony you will find nonconformists. It is not unusual to find the young of two species such as the Little Blue Heron and the Snowy Egret in the same nest.

But during the spring of 1955 at Penny Dam backwater heronry near Charleston, I found two nests which, to me at least, are most unusual. One nest held a single egg of the Black-crowned Night Heron and three eggs of the Little Blue Heron. The Night Heron egg is much the larger. The other nest contained three eggs of the Anhinga (Water Turkey) and a single egg of the Little Blue.

This Cowbird complex, occasioned when hundreds of nests are conglomerated in a small area, may be more commonplace than we realize. I suspect that the bird just lays her egg in the nearest nest on these occasions.

As an example of how closely bunched the nests can be in such a colony, three nests, each holding full complements of eggs, were found in a single small cypress stub bush. The nests were within six inches of each other. This is not unusual. What made these nests different were the species involved. One nest was that of a Little Blue Heron, the second, a Black-crowned Night Heron and the third a Green Heron.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., June 25, 1955.* (Could the Cowbird *complex* be avian unconcern or error?—*Dept. Ed.*).

Wildfowl Wintering at Our Coastal Refuges.—We are indebted to Messrs. Turner, Jaycocks, Kay, and Mellinger at our National Wildlife Refuges for the data below. The figures at Pea Island and Romain were given as peak populations. The Savannah Refuge figures were slightly below peak. The Mattamuskeet list is taken from the Christmas count conducted by Mgr. Cahoon, Robert Wolff and Larry Crawford. The lack of fresh water feeding areas at Romain doubtless explains the reduced number of birds there.

	Pea Island	Lake Mattamuskeet	Romain (Bulls Isld.)	Savannah
Whistling Swan	273	2,000	—	—
Canada Goose	11,000	60,000	700	few
Snow Goose	11,500	—	15	—
Blue Goose	—	4	25	11
Ducks				
All species	27,500	104,400	3000	40,600
Mallard		6000	1000	31,000
Black		10,000	800	1000
Gadwall		3000	400	300
Am. Widgeon		500	110	200
Pintail		35,000	25	5000
Gr-wing Teal		3000	30	1000
Bl-wing Teal		—	10	—
Shoveller		1000	50	200
Wood		350	2	10,000
Ring-neck		1000	10	1500
Canvas-back		—	—	100
Scaup (sp)		2500	400	35
Golden Eye		—	5	1
Bufflehead		—	100	—
Ruddy		2000	10	250
Hooded Merganser		9	—	6

The population at Pea Island had dwindled to 400 Canada Geese and about 1000 ducks (Blacks, Gadwall, Teal) by Apr. 6. At Romain, 60 Canada Geese remained until Mar. 30, the latest wintering date for that station. By the end of February there were but 3500 birds at the Savannah Refuge. By mid-March there were less than 1000 there (Shovellers, Gadwall, Teal). Diseased Canada Geese at Pea Island numbered 46 this winter. Last winter 127 were affected. Also at Pea Island, this winter's increase in numbers over last winter were: Swans, 11%; Canada Geese, 10%; Snow Geese, no change; all ducks 110%.—*Dept. Ed.*

Northern Raven Nesting Near Boone, N. C.—A letter from Harry Davis, received Apr. 12, reads in part as follows: "Some years ago (Ravens) were recorded as nesting on Snake Mountain, near Boone. On Apr. 7th and 8th., (1956) Quincy Scarborough, Jr., of Fayetteville, with some good climbing companions succeeded in reaching a nest of these birds under an overhang on Snake Mt. In the nest they found four young, one of which was dead. The nest was of stick construction and lined with wool. They found only this one nest."

On Apr. 14 I was able to talk with Scarborough and he gave me additional facts concerning the find. The nest was located on Apr. 7. The party (3) returned on the 8th., for further observations and pictures, Snake Mt., is adjacent to, or crossed by, the N. C.-Tennessee state line. The approximate altitude of the nest site on the side of the mountain is believed to be about 4500 ft. Scarborough and his companions were aided in locating the nest by a heavy fog which kept them out of sight of the parent bird engaged in feeding the young. The repeated cries of the old bird (or birds) helped.

The young Ravens were judged to be 5 to 7 days old. They were covered with "reddish fuzz" and their eyes were not yet open. The dead young one was about the size of the other three and apparently had not been dead long—probably a safe assumption since it had not been eaten.

In a check of Bent, Ridgeway, Chapman, Forbush and other sources at hand, I have been unable to learn at what age young Ravens open their eyes. Practically every description of the nests, however, mentions the use of wool as lining material. This nest is one of the very few to be found in our mountains in recent years.—*Dept. Ed.*

Behavior: Siskins, Cardinal, Purple Finch.—We have a big bird bath in our back yard and two feeders, 8 to 12 feet from a window and in a grove of dogwood. A dense virgin forest habitat extends from the back fence about a half mile toward the north and west.

Two Pine Siskins were observed at the bath, Jan. 7, between female Purple Finches and White-throats. On Jan. 8, and 11, three Siskins were again at the bath, and on Jan. 22 a single Siskin was again present.

Mrs. Hatcher observed at one of the feeders an occurrence which is unusual. On Jan. 12 she watched a male Cardinal apparently feeding an immature Purple Finch. The Cardinal put his beak into the mouth of the young finch, who was "asking for food". It was not possible to see the actual transfer of food but the motions gone through made this appear to be the case. The birds remained side by side for a while.—JOHN B. HATCHER, *Project Forester, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Aiken, S. C. Jan. 24, 1956.*

Behavior and Moult: Baltimore Oriole.—From my notes: A male Baltimore Oriole, Jan. 30, 1956 (yard at 302 Green St., Fayetteville, N. C.) had short outer tail feather so I could recognize it. Remained until the day after I banded it, Feb. 24. Fed first on suet mix in pine cones, then to trays for tiny bread crumbs; later took pieces of bread to nearby branches to hold with one claw as it pecked off bites. Did not show interest in cluster of fresh, ripe grapes on tray, but when grapes were rotten, mashed and thrown on the ground, it returned to feed on them repeatedly! Fed at all feeders, suspended by wire, affixed to window and at ground level. Fed also in the thick grass, picking up crumbs of bread. At water the bird

seemed to tip its bill upside-down towards its feet and then raised its head to normal level to swallow, not any higher, holding bill a little open. Discharged Purple Finches which were too close while feeding with a minor threat. When a Brown Thrasher hopped on the suspended tray with the Oriole, the latter hunched and stared, immobile; the thrasher stared, took bread and left.

On arrival, the oriole was very dark—almost like an Orchard Oriole, but it seemed to increase in brilliance each day, first at the rump and crissum, until it was very near spring plumage. The single short outer tail feather had a pale yellow tip of about an inch depth. The outer feather tips were frayed and were dark rusty-brown-gray. The new feather was about one inch shorter than the others. The toes were very stout and strong on a moderately slender leg—1A band.

The oriole was very wary of the trap—I had almost despaired of banding it—but very quiet when covered by my hand, and for banding. Its fear showed in its wide open bill and stillness. No noticeable swelling at cloaca.—Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr., *Fayetteville, N. C.*

Dickcissel at Charlotte, N. C.—On Jan. 15, 1956, I noted the occurrence of a male Dickcissel at the feeder of the Shuford Peelers in southeastern Charlotte. Additional occurrences have since been noted in the neighborhood and it now seems apparent that this bird passed the major portion of the winter here. It is with us now (Apr. 5).

On Mar. 16, Mrs. Norwood spotted a male Dickcissel feeding with House Sparrows in our yard. She was able to observe the bird for some little time with 7 x 35 binoculars—at times as close as 10 feet. The bird had what seemed to be a wart-like growth on one foot that might have bothered him since he occasionally drew that foot up into his feathers (possibly a wood tick since it was not seen later—*Dept. Ed.*).

Mrs. Richard Cochran, who lives one block from our home, reports that a male Dickcissel has been an almost daily visitor at her backyard feeder since last January. Presumably this is the same bird we have been seeing. It was usually seen in mid-morning and sometimes late in the afternoon. It was always on the ground, most often feeding in company with other birds. On Sunday afternoon, Apr. 1st., Mrs. Cochran saw the Dickcissel exhibit a very aggressive attitude toward the other feeding birds. On six different occasions he singled out and chased away a House Sparrow. The Dickcissel did not remain at Mrs. Cochran's feeder after Apr. 1. However, Mrs. Lester Carleton, across the street from the Cochrans, saw him and heard him singing on Apr. 5, in the late afternoon.—Joseph R. Norwood, *Charlotte, N. C.*

White-crowned Sparrows on the S. C. Coast.—We are indebted again to Woods and Waters column of the *Charleston News and Courier*, popular outlet for low-country birders, for the following careful account by Robert H. Coleman of the recent occurrence of White-crowned Sparrows on the lower South Carolina coast. We quote in part: "— Mrs. Coleman and I watched a flock of eight of these birds feeding on the edge of a weed patch beside the Fort Lamar Road near Secessionville on Dec. 21, of this year. The birds were not especially shy and were easily approached to within 20 feet. The light was behind us, and 'seeing' through our 7X binoculars could not have been better. The unmarked breast and flanks of the birds, the pinkish bills, and the three relatively broad buff lines through their rufus crowns were clearly seen. They were paler and more reddish in general tone than their close relatives, the White-throated Sparrows. None had the slightest suggestion of a white throat. All of them were in what Audubon calls their 'brown livery.' —After we had studied them for possibly 20 minutes the flock suddenly took flight and disappeared in a field of rank weeds—. On Dec. 24 we returned to the spot and found a single bird. —We did not have time to look for others.— On Dec. 26, Ellison A. Williams and Arthur M. Wilcox went to the place described and found six birds."—*Dept. Ed.*

A Delayed Christmas Count: Salisbury, N. C.—This report from the Rev. Thom Blair was unavoidably held up in preparation and reached us too late to include in the March issue. It is unusual in the number of duck species found: Dec. 29, 1955. 6:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. (area same as previous year) Temp. 33° - 42°; wind, 0 - 10 mph, NE. Cloudy, fog and light rain, a.m.; clear, p.m. Three observers, one party. Party-miles, 149 (140 by car, 9 on foot). Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Great Blue Heron, 24; Mallard, 18; Black Duck, 48; Gadwall, 15; Am. Widgeon, 52; Pintail, 13; Ring-neck, 30; Canvas-back, 2; Scaup, 12; Ruddy Duck, 19; Hooded Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tail, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Coot, 32; Killdeer, 3; Herring Gull, 8; Ring-billed Gull, 52; Mourning Dove, 3; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Am. Crow, 15; Chickadee, 9; Titmouse, 4; Brown Creeper, 4; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 14; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 36; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Water Pipit, 18; Cedar Waxwing, 8; Shrike, 10; Starling, 119; Pine Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 2; House Sparrow, 3; Meadowlark, 60; Rusty Blackbird, 400; Purple Grackle, 2; Cardinal, 31; Goldfinch, 58; Towhee, 11; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 170; Field Sparrow, 106; White-throat, 101; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 15. Total species, 59. Total individuals, 1598. (Rock Dove, 9, deleted for want of supporting statement).—Thom W. Blair, Thom W. Blair, Jr., (compiler), R. H. Blair.

Briefs for the Files.

White Pelicans, 50 or more wintered at Romain Refuge, mid-Dec. through mid-Mar., Edgar Jaycocks, Victor Kay. Anhinga, 1 at Sunny Point, Southport, N. C., Jan. 20, H. T. Bowmer, *et al.* Wood Ibis, 1 near McClellanville, Dec. 1, 5, 7, '55, Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Edwards; 3-4 at Hwy. 17 and Combahee River, S. C., Feb. 8, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington. White Ibises, 35-40 at same crossing over Combahee River, Feb. 8, The Barringtons. European Widgeon, none at Wilmington—Mrs. Appleberry's regularly reported bird failed to return this past winter. One was reported shot at Camp Bryan; another wintered at Medway Plantation, S. C. Canvas-backs, 2, City Lake, Rocky Mount, Jan. 18, Bill Joyner; also, 3 at Lake Raleigh, Raleigh, Dec. 3, T. L. Quay. Bald Eagle, flushed from nest near Orton Plantation, Dec. 31, '55, Quincy Scarborough, Jr.; 2 adults over Haw River east of Pittsboro, N. C., Apr. 6, Robert Overing. Coot, plentiful in east. Killdeer, 50, Mar. 2; 60, Mar. 4; 110, Mar. 11; 150, Mar. 17, N. Wilkesboro, Wendell P. Smith. Woodcock, singing at Matthews, N. C., 3rd week, Jan.; singing at Wilmington 3rd week Jan., Clifford Comeau; and Feb. 5, Mrs. Appleberry. **Long-billed Curlew**, only 1 wintered at Romain, not seen after 3rd week of Mar., Victor W. Kay. Chuck-will's-widow, heard at Wilmington, Mar. 10, Clark James. Hummingbird, 1 in yard at Troy, N. C., Mar. 30, Frances M. Covington. Flicker, first song, Feb. 8, Aynor, S. C., Mrs. G. E. Charles. Rough-winged Swallow, about 8, City Lake, Salisbury, Mar. 18, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood. Purple Martins, several at Elkin, Mar. 14, Linville Hendren; at Wilmington, Mar. 1, Trask, *fide* Mrs. Appleberry; at Romain Refuge, Feb. 20, VWK. Brown Thrasher, on nest Mar. 23, 3 eggs, Mar. 26. Aynor, S. C., GEC. Robins, no roosts reported this winter. Parula Warbler, singing at Savannah Refuge, Mar. 15, E. O. Mellinger. Yellow-throated Warbler, at Wilmington, Mar. 12, Mrs. A. Chat, 1 in city yard at Fayetteville, Dec. 9, '55, Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr. Red-winged Blackbird, scarce, less than 500 in migrating flock at N. Wilkesboro, Feb. 12, WPS; about 10, some singing, Lake Johnson, Charlotte, Feb. 22 (temp. 44°) JRNs. Baltimore Oriole, 1 female at Clarkson's, Charlotte, Dec. 21—29. Mrs. EOC. Cardinal, singing at Aynor, Jan. 25 and on, GEC. Chipping Sparrow, 5 N. Wilkesboro, Mar. 14, WPS; 2, Feb. 25, Troy, FMC.
All dates 1956 unless noted.

Founded March 6, 1937 *Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	$1.00	Contributing	$25.00
Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat* and the *Newsletter*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph—Royal Tern Nesting Colony, Cape Island, S. C. By Gordon H. Brown, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept., Columbia, S. C.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I believe that too few of us are giving the CBC endowment fund the consideration we should. True, no definite plans for the fund have ever been adopted. There has been no general discussion of the fund, nor any official action, at any CBC meeting. The club has not discussed, nor considered, any way of building the fund, and has made no definite plans for its use.

The ideas of the few who have been advocating the endowment fund were to build up a backlog against a rainy day—to accumulate a continuously growing fund, keep it invested in government bonds or other securities, and spend only the interest, or earnings from the same. As it is understood now these earnings as they are received are to revert to the CBC treasury for the general operating expenses of the club.

It has been suggested that earnings from the endowment fund be used for the annual scholarship awards provided for at the last annual meeting at Charlotte. Other worthy activities have been suggested. All of these, however, require earnings from a much larger fund than we have at the present. To finance the two annual scholarships alone we must have a total of nearly $7,000 in the fund.

As of June 28th there is a total of $785 in the fund, according to Ellison Williams, chairman of the endowment fund committee. This includes two life memberships of $100 each placed in the fund at the request of the subscribing members. The balance of $585 is from gifts or donations from local or affiliated clubs and from individuals. There has been no solicitation of donations. All have been free will offerings.

Perhaps the club should adopt some sort of campaign to build the endowment fund. That the club has need for such a fund is not to be denied. It would have a stabilizing effect on the whole club, and it would provide funds for some constructive work the club might become interested in.

Your president believes that all life memberships automatically should go into the endowment fund. They belong there, or in some other fund where only the annual earnings will be usable in the treasury for general operating expenses. In accepting a life membership the club is accepting a trust in the amount of that membership. It is a club obligation that the sum of this membership be placed in some trust fund with only the annual earnings therefrom payable into the general operating fund or treasury. It is more than an annual membership—it is for a lifetime, and it should be held in trust certainly for the lifetime of that member. So why not put it into the endowment fund where it will be securely invested and safeguarded against any emergency call on the general treasury? After all the annual earnings from a life membership will amount to at least three times the amount of a regular annual membership at present.

The club should encourage gifts and donations to help build the endowment fund. There are many persons and organizations who are making gifts annually to worthy causes. Many of them are seeking places such as CBC can provide for such donations. The Carolina Bird Club is in a position to use properly these gifts and donations. Right here in North and South Carolina they are needed. We should try to keep them here. It may be well to note here that all such gifts to the CBC endowment fund are deductible in figuring income taxes.

Ideas and suggestions for building the endowment fund, and for the uses of the fund will be appreciated fully. Send me your ideas.

FRED H. MAY

BREEDING BEHAVIOR OF A PAIR OF MEADOWLARKS

J. B. Shuler, Jr.

A bird's social relationships are often difficult to observe, and to interpret after observations have been made. It would seem that the function of language in an avian society is served in part by displays. Because of the difficulty in assigning motive to a particular display, determining the sex of a bird by its actions is often hazardous. Even "reverse-mounting" has been noted in some species.

The following is based on observations made in the spring of 1954. All observations were made in an area no larger than an average city block, and within the limits of Donaldson Air Force Base near Greenville, S. C.

March 23

A pair of Meadowlarks were observed in what was assumed to be mate selection. The male walked behind the female at a distance of six feet or less. He often flashed the white in his tail, or walked with his tail fully spread. His bill was held pointing straight up. Every few seconds he would stop and pick at the ground, possibly as part of the display as the female was not feeding.

The female gave no observable indication of attention, except to maintain a distance of a yard or so. Several times the female flew about a hundred yards, closely followed by the male. Each time, on alighting, the birds resumed the action.

The portion of the display described above which includes the bill pointed skyward has been recorded in several icterids. Nero (*The Wilson Bulletin*, March 1956) calls this display "bill-tilting," and relates it to confronting situations, such as territorial clashes. In the Red-wing Blackbird adults of both sexes and immatures were seen to give this display. If "bill-tilting" is invariably associated with a "clash" between members of a species, then the Meadowlark action just described may not have been mate selection, and the second bird possibly was a male. However, this bird did not return the display or leave the area. Lack (*The Life of the Robin*, 1943) thought that mate selection began in the European Robin with a threat display by the male to a female entering his territory for the first time.

April 18

A pair of Meadowlarks were feeding in some short grass. A third bird flew into the vicinity, announcing its presence, at least to the observer, with loud chattering phrases. It alighted near the feeding pair and was promptly chased by the bird that later events indicated to be the male. During the chase the female gathered a load of straw and flew about fifteen feet to a spot where she disappeared in the grass. When she reappeared the intruder again invaded the territory and was again driven off by the male. The intruder flew across the road and perched on a telephone wire, singing vigorously.

When the male returned, the female crouched with her head extended low along the ground. The male approached from about six feet away with several half-hopping, half-flying strides. During copulation he voiced

several whistling and chattering notes. After a few seconds he returned to his spot six feet away and gave voice to this song: TE TU DAEEEEEEEE CHA - CHA - CHA - CHA - CHA - CHA.

The whistled notes were like that of a Tufted Titmouse in quality, and the chattering notes reminiscent of the Belted Kingfisher. Both phrases were repeated about fifteen times alternately. The female remained crouched in the grass during this performance. There is a temptation to describe these notes as a mating song. The whole performance seemed to be a behavioral chain beginning before copulation and ending with the mating song.

The male suddenly flew up to the wire where the "intruding" lark was perching. The two sang at each other and "flicked" their tails. Finally the male returned to his side of the road.

There followed about forty-five minutes of feeding by the female. The male moved from perch to perch, singing most of the time, and selecting the perch most nearly above the spot where the female was feeding.

April 21

The empty nest was located in the spot where the female was seen to disappear with the load of straw on April 18. It was a compact structure made entirely of grass and completely domed over. It had an entrance low on one side. No measurements were taken, but the diameter was about six inches. The grass growing at this spot was barely as high as the nest.

April 23

One egg in nest.

The male was having to defend the territory from a pair of Meadowlarks at one end of the territory and from the unmated Meadowlark at the other end.

The territory was estimated to be about 350 feet by 150 feet.

It was bounded on three sides by a road, a parking lot, and some buildings. The open end bordered the territory of the pair of Meadowlarks mentioned in the preceeding paragraph.

April 26

Four eggs in nest.

The nest had been enlarged since the observations of April 23 by roofing over the entrance to form a tunnel about four inches long. The female was flushed from the nest. She gave a "hint" of injury-feigning when she drooped her wings and slowed her first rush after clearing the immediate vicinity.

The male flew up to the wire at the disturbance and sang.

April 27

The female gave a much more pronounced injury-feigning display than on the previous day. This increase of the intensity of the display at the onset of incubation suggests a physiological tie-up between brooding and injury-feigning.

April 29

The top of the nest was found to have been clipped off when the area was mowed. Though the female was still incubating, when she left the nest the eggs were plainly visible from above.

May 2

The eggs were cold and the nest obviously deserted.

May 24

A nest with two well feathered young and one infertile egg was located on the other end of the same territory. The second nest was not as well constructed or camouflaged as the first. It was saved from destruction by the mower, by two Airmen who marked the spot with a piece of board.

The Yellow-breasted Chat used on the attractive name cards at the CBC meeting in Charlotte was the idea of Mrs. Goerge C. Potter, 2111 Malvern Road, Charlotte 7, N. C. She generously offers the use of this cut to CBC members or clubs in the Carolinas.

—CBC—

SOME FOLKLORE OF THE BLUE JAY

W. L. McAtee

The name, Devil Bird, for this species has come to me from South Carolina, and a supporting term, Bird-o'-Satan, from Virginia. The legends, explanatory of these appellations, are reported from Ontario, Canada, and Maine, south to Florida and west to Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. They place the Jays as spies, messengers, and aids to his Satanic majesty, to whom they report every Friday. The birds tell him about naughty children; bring news of backsliders; carry splinters so that the Devil and his wife will not lack for kindling; "tote fire"; and even take sand and stones. The latter non-inflammables may be for moderating or putting out fires; at least that is the object of similar practices attributed to the Mockingbird. There are variations on the theme, one reporter in Maryland had the Jays visiting Hades every third day instead of each Friday; and a Virginia authority has the birds carrying corn. When they get back they are very noisy and their eyes are red from the heat.

The "whys" of such stories are as uncertain as with most folklore. The Jay is disliked because of its harsh cries and from its preying upon the eggs and young of other birds. Friday, as the time for its nefarious activities, is understandable as that day is very widely held to be one of ill omen. Search has not revealed any European legend directly basic to ours. The nearest seems to be a Swedish tale of magpies helping the Devil to carry hay to his kingdom in August.

The Jay has a place in weather lore, as have so many other birds; any conspicuous vociferation by it being taken as a sign of "falling weather".

An Uncle Remus sort of yarn alleges that the black necklace of the Jay is a dark mark left when a sparrow once outwitted its enemy and yoked it to a plow.

A few ditties, one of them evidently related to this fable, may conclude this note:

"Jaybird pullin' a two-mule plow
'Sparrow, where was you?'
'My laigs so long and limber, Lawd,
Is'e skeered they'd break in two' ".

"Jaybird in de mahtin's nest
To sabe his soul, he got no rest".

"A jaybird sot on a hickry limb;
He winked at me and I winked at him;
I throwed a stone and hit him on the shin;
Said he, 'You'd better never do that agin' ".

VOICES OF THE CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW AND THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

EDWARD VON SIEBOLD DINGLE

As there has been some confusion in enumerating the various calls of *Caprimulgus carolinensis*, I would like to list them as they have come to my attention.

The Chuck-will's-widow is probably our foremost bird vocalist; in range, variety and continued performance it seems to have no equal in North America. The only avian voice that might rival it in range is that of the Great Horned Owl *(Bubo virginianus)*.

The song and calls of *carolinensis* are as follows:

1. The well-known "Chuck-will's-widow" song.

   Since the publication of *South Carolina Bird Life* additional long song-performances of this species have been recorded.

   On the night of April 17, 1954, one called 219 times with the usual pauses.

   On a May, 1954 night, calls were heard 804 times with 15 breaks, none of which were longer than 5 or 6 seconds. After this performance the bird flew to another perch and began his song again; I did not keep any record of this, but it lasted a long time.

   On the night of June 6. 1955, a total of 551 calls was heard with two pauses, five seconds after call 130 and 15 seconds after call 279.

   Beginning at 2 A.M. on the night of May 27, 1956, a Chuck-will's-widow called, by actual count, 534 times with one break of 10 or 12 seconds after call number 202. It had been calling a long time before I started to count.

   The carrying quality of the bird's song is remarkable; under usual conditions it can be heard for more than a mile and probably much farther if conditions are very favorable.

2. A long-drawn, guttural note, repeated several times immediately preceding the main song.
3. A sing-song "konk, konk, konk" repeated as many as 25 times and audible as far as 400 or 500 feet. This call has a vibrating quality and sounds very much like plucking the string of a bass violin.
4. A single, loud raucous note heard only once, before dark.
5. A "frog-like croak", given when the bird is flushed from the ground or higher perch, or when changing perches.
6. A soft, murmuring sound heard in moonlight, apparently between sallies after insects.

The Whip-poor-will *(Caprimulgus vociferus)* is, according to my experience, much more nocturnal than the Chuck-will's-widow. While the latter is often heard before dark, especially on rainy or damp evenings, *vociferus* appears when it is quite dark; then, too, it seems to hug the ground more closely, than its big cousin; consequently, is harder to detect.

There seems to be little reason in confusing the songs of the two species; that of *carolinensis* consists of four notes, of *vociferus*, three. The "whip-

(Continued on page 63)

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER Department Editor

From Mrs. G. E. Charles in Aynor, S. C. come these interesting notes for this department on Brown Thrashers, Catbirds (a species in which Mrs. Charles has always taken special interest—(*Chat* 18(3): 73, 1955) and a Yellow-throated Warbler.

In your last Backyard Birding you wrote something about bobbed tailed birds. I looked up the word "bobbed" in the dictionary and find it means cut short. So the term will not fit my Brown Thrasher as he has *no* tail at all. He has been around my home for about a year without a tail. My only guess as to why he has none and does not grow one is that he probably was caught by a cat or something, and lost the feathers and the "foundation" of his tail in the jaws of whatever predator it might have been. Nonetheless, he is a fine bird and began singing in early February in the top of a tall sweet gum in the woods near the back yard.

On March 23 the nest was found and a few days later his mate was sitting on three eggs. "Papa" Thrasher did his full share of "bringing in the bacon" for the three youngsters before and after they left the nest. It was interesting to see them following him on the lawn while he dug into the grass for bugs or made trip after trip to the feeder for crumbs to fill the three hungry mouths.

I saw the Thrasher on April 26, carrying a twig into a vine on a trellis in the Dawsey back yard next door. There I found nest number two which had its first egg April 30. We told the grandchildren the nest must not be disturbed, but they just could not keep the secret as to its whereabouts. So a playmate climbed the trellis late one afternoon and broke it down, put his hand into the nest and left a broken egg, so he said. I put some props under the vine to hold the nest as nearly in place as possible, and to my surprise, the next morning Mrs. Thrasher was sitting on the remaining two eggs, that is if one had been broken.

This nest had another mishap from a mischievous boy's effort to reach it. My daughter came out of her house with her rod of correction and started first with her own children. The neighbor's boy departed in high gear before his turn came and did not come back for many days. So the birds were left to hatch their two eggs and raise their young in peace except for my frequent visits to see that all was well, for the nest leaned so far to the side that I was afraid the eggs or young would spill out.

The parent birds objected seriously to my presence and would strike my hand as I lifted a mirror above the nest to observe its contents, and as I turned away they would strike me on the head, back and shoulders.

The tailless Thrasher and his family are still in the yard at this writing (July 7), but no third nest has yet been found.

The Catbirds arrived in my yard April 9, which was unusually early. May 8 they had a nest of four eggs in a Crepe Myrtle bush in the Dawsey back yard.

Whoever thinks the Catbird does not sing in the Low Country will have to think again, for they have certainly entertained me with song this spring and early summer. After the brood left the nest the birds were absent from the yard a week or more, then the male returned and sang almost continuously for several weeks. Evidently he had lost his mate and was trying to call her back to him or attract another. On July 6 he found a mate and another nest was being built in a Crepe Myrtle next door, but not the same bush where nest number one had been. It remains to be seen how number two nest turns out.

On the morning of April 10, after a windy night, I picked up a small soft nest from the ground under tall pines in my yard. It was the size and shape of a Chipping Sparrow's nest, but the material was different. It was lined with feathers and hair.

I had been hearing an unfamiliar song which I thought might be that of some kind of warbler. June 17 I happened to look out the kitchen window just in time to see a Yellow-throated Warbler perching on the roof of the bird feeder two feet from the window. In looking through the books to learn something of its habits, I found that this species builds in March or April and a description of its nest compared favorably with the one I had picked up in my yard.

We are delighted to have the following observation from Mrs. Francis Barrington, Charleston, S. C.: Last October my husband and I had an experience which we have never "officially" reported, mainly for the reason that no ornithologist shared with us the identification that we believe we made correctly.

On Sunday morning, October 9, 1955, we were enjoying a relaxed hour observing the birdbath directly beneath our dining room window. We had placed food in the several nearby feeders and quite a few consumers were availing themselves of it as well as the dripping water of the bath. A Yellow Warbler, two Parulas, a nondescript, greenish Black-poll in fall plumage, one Black and White Warbler, several Redstarts and three Red-eyed Vireos, in addition to a number of our usual permanent residents, were all busying themselves about the garden. Then at the same moment we both "recognized a bird that we had never seen before". We watched it for five minutes through our glasses and with the naked eye, until it departed. We did not see it at any other time. We immediately looked it up in Peterson's, *S. C. Bird Life* and Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States.*

The bird was a bright (almost glowing) yellow-green above, white below with wing-bars and an eye-ring, but no chestnut on the sides. We believe we had seen an immature male Chestnut-sided Warbler. *S. C. Bird Life* (1949) tells us that although this species is a fairly common summer resident in South Carolina in the mountains, "on the coast it is practically unknown, there being but one record, April 24, 1929, when E. von S. Dingle secured a male at Middleburg Plantation, Berkeley County".

So you will see why we were thrilled, yet reluctant to report our amateur sight observation. However, the Evening Grosbeaks are moving southward, the Cattle Egrets are extending their range and the Vermillion Flycatcher has visited South Carolina, so possibly the Chestnut-sided Warbler may occur along our coast. If there should be any later authenticated records we shall be most interested to learn of them.

On the following day, October 10, 1955, about 7:00 a.m., I was out on our front lawn which is partly shaded by live oaks, when I began to notice small groups of Flickers passing over in approximately the same direction —from south, to north or north by west. By actual count I saw 82 fly over in a period of about 20 minutes. During this time many other birds flew over in the same direction, but so obscured by the trees that positive identification was not possible. Many of these may have been Flickers also. This is the only time I have seen such a migration (?) of the Yellow-shafted Flicker. Why were they traveling northward in October?

THE 1956 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Participation in the 1956 Spring Count was greater than any we have previously recorded. This year 129 observers turned out in eleven locations. Unfortunately, five of the groups failed to record the number of individual birds seen and much of the value of their reports is lost.

Wilmington, in its advantageous position, easily led the field with a species count of 162. Greensboro's count of individuals reached 9128, including 3055 Goldfinches, and was well ahead of the others in that count. Most abundant species in addition to the Goldfinches were: Tree Swallows, 2500, at Wilmington; Purple Martins, 482, at New London; and Myrtle Warblers, 414 at Greensboro. The highest Starling count was 316, at Greensboro. Also at Greensboro, the highest House Sparrow count was 289.

Since the Wilmington and Greensboro counts are well organized and the areas well covered, their results should be fairly representative of the spring populations on the coast and in the Piedmont region of our territory. A comparison of results at these locations over the past four springs is interesting.

	Wilmington		*Greensboro*	
	Species	Individuals	Species	Individuals
1953	166	6679	126	6424
1954	164	7324	120	4653
1955	154	7950	122	6735
1956	162	6782	125	9128

The low species count at Wilmington in 1955 was attributed to high wind. The high individual count that year included 2,000 Dunlins.

From these census figures it appears that, in recent years, during a normal spring, the selected standard area at Wilmington supports at least 7,200 birds of 164 species and the census area at Greensboro, located centrally in the Piedmont region, supports at least 6,600 birds of 123 species. Mathematically, the concentration of birds over the 176.6 sq. mi., at Wilmington is 40.8 per sq. mi., and at Greensboro, 37.4 per sq. mi. Of course, the value of these figures is dependant upon the completeness of coverage. On an average basis, each of Wilmington's 8 parties of 2 to 3 observers traveled 43 miles and counted birds for 10 hours. Greensboro's 16 parties of 2 observers traveled 20 miles and counted for 6½ hours each.

In general, the vireos and warblers were plentiful. At Greensboro 1, or possibly 2 Brewster's Warblers were studied by two groups independantly.

Chapel Hill. (incomplete data) Area as in Christmas census. Apr. 29. Cloudy, rain; 40-50°; light wind. 6:00 a.m.,-6:00 p.m. Twelve observers. 98 species. Unusual: Ruddy Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Warbling Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow (seldom reported). Participants: Roy H. Brown, Mrs. H. D. Crockford, Robert P. Holmes. Mr. & Mrs. Ray Kaign, Stella Lyons, Bill Roe, Matt L. Thompson (compiler), Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Harold W. Walters, Stafford Warren.

Charlotte. (incomplete data) Area as in Christmas counts. May 12. Clear, light wind; 65-85° 6:30 a.m.,-6:30 p.m. Eight observers, 3 parties. 75 species. Timed too late for most migrants. Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Black-poll Warblers, on Queens College campus were a bit late. Participants: B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Anne Locke, Sarah Nooe, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. G. C. Potter, Mrs. W. B. Simons.

Clemson. (incomplete data) General area in the vicinity of Clemson College. May 5. Clear, mild; light wind. 6:00 a.m.,-7:30 p.m. No organized census; a Check List by members of CBC during the week-end field trip. 113 species. Noteworthy: Coot, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs (1 each), Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-

breasted, Black-poll and Canada Warblers. Am. Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Pine Siskins (abundant over the *lawns*), White-crowned Sparrow. Compiler, B. R. Chamberlain. Participants: probably 40, active. *Carolina Bird Club.*

Greensboro. (area, 7½ mi., radius, centering ½ mi., SW of Transmitter of Radio Station WBIG. Approximately the same area as in past years. Deciduous and pine woods 25%, thickets 15%, fresh-water lakes and ponds 25%, open fields 15%, marsh and wooded swamps 10%, lawns and parks 10%). Apr. 28. 1:30 a.m.,-7:30 p.m.; mostly cloudy early a.m., partly cloudy in p.m. 65-82°; wind SW, 5-15 m.p.h. Scattered light showers in p.m. Thirty-four observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 105 (26 by car, 79 on foot); total party-miles 313 (255 by car, 58 on foot). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Little Blue Heron, 3; Green Heron, 12; Green-winged Teal, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 16; Black Vulture, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 26; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 5; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 21; Solitary Sandpiper, 9; Greater Yellow-legs, 3; Lesser Yellow-legs, 15; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 144; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Screech Owl, 2; Horned Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 15; Night Hawk, 3; Chimney Swift, 92; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 9; Flicker, 45; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 25; Red-headed Woodpecker, 13; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 42; Eastern Kingbird, 37; Crested Flycatcher, 41; Phoebe, 50; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Wood Pewee, 11; Horned Lark, 2; Tree Swallow, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 20; Barn Swallow, 5; Purple Martin, 119; Blue Jay, 145; Am. Crow, 89; Carolina Chickadee, 133; Tufted Titmouse, 165; White-breasted Nuthatch, 49; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 1; House Wren, 26; Carolina Wren, 122; Mockingbird, 162; Catbird, 39; Brown Thrasher, 56; Robin, 216; Wood Thrush, 136; Hermit Thrush, 11; Olive-backed Thrush, 10; Veery, 4; Bluebird, 119; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 116; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 116; Shrike, 13; Starling, 316; White-eyed Vireo, 38; Yellow-throated Vireo, 38; Blue-headed Vireo, 10; Red-eyed Vireo, 99; Black and White Warbler, 34; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Worm-eating Warbler, 5; Blue-winged Warbler, 3; Parula Warbler, 29; Yellow Warbler, 18; Cape May Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 12; Myrtle Warbler, 414; Yellow-throated Warbler, 32; Black-poll Warbler, 5; Pine Warbler, 51; Prairie Warbler, 49; Ovenbird, 90; Small-billed (Northern) Water-Thrush, 3; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 20; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellow-throat, 78; Yellow-breasted Chat, 39; Hooded Warbler, 54; Redstart, 119; House Sparrow, 289; Bobolink, 45; Eastern Meadowlark, 96; Red-winged Blackbird, 262; Orchard Oriole, 3; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Purple Grackle, 30; Cowbird, 3; Scarlet Tanager, 16; Summer Tanager, 26; Cardinal, 300; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Blue Grosbeak, 10; Indigo Bunting, 6; Purple Finch, 9; Pine Siskin, 12; Goldfinch, 3.055; Red-eyed Towhee, 127; Savannah Sparrow, 10; Grasshopper Sparrow, 25; Bachman's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 218; Field Sparrow, 104; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 213; Song Sparrow, 35; Totals: 125 species, 9,128 appx. individuals. Participants: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Mrs. W. C. Carr. Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Medford. Hugh Medford, Jr., George A. Smith. Etta Schiffman, Evelyn Cole, Dr. Elizabeth Boyd, Larry A. Crawford, Jr. Dr. & Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, E. Prevatte. Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Mrs. Charles Swart, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, Mrs. Hans Mayer, Mrs. R. B. Turner, Mrs. F. H. Craft. Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall. Inez Coldwell, Ida Mitchell. Dr. Charlotte Dawley. Edith L. Tryo, Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Taylor, Dr. & Mrs. Franklin H. McNutt, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Robert E. McCoy. Compilers: Mr. & Mrs. George W. Perrett, Thomas E. Street. *Piedmont Bird Club.*

Greenville, S. C. (Area same as previous counts). May 12. Fair, 54-64°; light wind. 6:00 a.m..-2:00 p.m. Seven observers in 1 party. Green Heron, 1; Scaup, 4; Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 24; Coot,

1; Killdeer, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 6; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 6; Hummingbird, 1; Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Least Flycatcher, 1; Pewee, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 4; Purple Martin, 4; Blue Jay, 8; Am. Crow, 10; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 10; Catbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 6; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 12; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10; Starling, 50; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow Warbler, 8; Magnolia Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Black-poll, 6; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 3; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 4; Yellow-breasted Chat, 15; Hooded Warbler, 8; Redstart, 2; House Sparrow, 12; Eastern Meadowlark, 20; Red-wing Blackbird, 7; Purple Grackle, 2; Summer Tanager, 3; Cardinal, 20; Blue Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 12; Goldfinch, 20; Eastern Towhee, 4; Grasshopper Sparrow, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 8; Field Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 8. Totals: 69 species, 430 individuals. Participants: Jimmy Cureton, Bobby Graham, Lillie Hart, Rosa Lee Hart, May W. Puett (compiler), Harold Todd, Mary Wilburn. *Greenville Bird Club.*

Henderson, N. C. (incomplete data) Area same as in Christmas counts. Apr. 28. Fair, 65-83°; wind, SW 15 m.p.h. 7:00 a.m.,-4:30 p.m. Observer, 6 in 1 party. 70 species. Noteworthy: Tennessee Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Evening Grosbeak. In the same area, May 5, a Blackburnian Warbler; May 6, a Canada Warbler; May 7, a Baltimore Oriole. Participants: Jeannette Bachman (compiler), Ruth Brown, Muriel Gary, Charlotte Hilton Green, Mary S. McLaurin, Garnette Myers. *Henderson Bird Club.*

Jefferson, N. C. (Area same as Christmas counts—Nathan's Creek section) May 5. Fair, light wind. 7:30 a.m., to dusk. One observer: Mrs. A. B. Hurt. Little Blue Heron, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Bob-white, 2; Mourning Dove, 2; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 9; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Phoebe, 3; Least Flycatcher, 5; Wood Pewee, 4; Barn Swallow, 8; Blue Jay, 2; Am. Crow, 7; Carolina Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Bewick's Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 2; Catbird, 7; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 5; Wood Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Starling, 40; Yellow-throated Vireo, 5; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Black and White Warbler, 12; Yellow Warbler, 4; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 11; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4; Ovenbird, 21; Yellow-throat, 1; Hooded Warbler, 1; Am. Redstart, 4; House Sparrow, 12; Bobolink, 150; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Red-wing Blackbird, 10; Orchard Oriole, 1; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Purple Grackle, 10; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Cardinal, 17; Indigo Bunting, 4; Goldfinch, 35; Eastern Towhee, 20; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 13; Field Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 3. Totals: 61 species, 525 individuals. Seen in area May 4, Eastern Kingbird; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, May 3.

Lenoir, N. C. (Area as in Christmas counts; home grounds, and gardens, parks and woodlands, creek bottoms and City dump) May 12. Sunny, warm, about 85°, light SW wind. 6:00 a.m.,-4:00 p.m. Total observers 16. Three parties in cars others at home grounds. Car miles about 25. About 5 on foot. Green Heron, 2; Turkey Vulture, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 16; Cooper's Hawk. 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white. 8; Killdeer, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Semipalmated Sandpipers, 7; Mourning Dove, 18; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Screech Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 1; Nighthawk, 4; Chimney Swift, 22; Hummingbird, 4; Flicker, 5; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 8; Crested Flycatcher, 3; Phoebe, 9; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1; Acadian Flycatcher, 8; Wood Pewee, 6; Horned Lark, 10; Rough-winged Swallow, 21; Purple Martin, 38; Blue Jay, 14; Am. Crow, 12; Carolina Chickadee, 14;

Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 12; Catbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 14; Robin, 25; Wood Thrush, 13; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Veery, 1; Bluebird, 16; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Shrike, 4; Starling, 30; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 16; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 5; Black-poll Warbler, 8; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 2; Ovenbird, 11; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 1; Yellow-throat, 5; Yellow-breasted Chat, 20; Am. Redstart, 6; House Sparrow, 38; Common Meadowlark, 18; Red-winged Blackbird, 15; Orchard Oriole, 4; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 12; Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 7; Summer Tanager, 8; Cardinal, 35; Indigo Bunting, 19; Goldfinch, 24; Eastern Towhee, 14; Grasshopper Sparrow, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, 19; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 28. Totals: 85 species, 776 individuals. Participants: Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Greer, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parks, Miss Irene Hoyer, Mrs. C. S. Warren, Miss Elizabeth Bernhardt, Miss Cary Harrison, Miss Margaret Harper, Mrs. Lucy Cunningham, Mrs. R. L. Rowan, Mrs. Charles Hughes, Frank Hoyer, J. T. Ingram. Mrs. Fred May, Fred May (compiler). *Lenoir Audubon Club.* (The Semipalmated Sandpipers listed here are of particular interest. They are seldom reported so far inland. These seven birds were found in the morning and carefully checked again in the afternoon by Fred May and others).

New London, Stanly Co., N. C. (7½ mi. radius centering 2 mi., NW of Badin, including Lakes High Rock and Badin. Morrow Mountain State Park, Albemarle, etc.) mixed deciduous woodland 25%, open fields and farmland 27%, fresh water pond and lake shores 25%, lakes and rivers 15%, marsh 3%, pine woods 2%, suburbs 3%). Apr. 28. 3:00 a.m.,-noon. Clear to partly cloudy, scattered light showers at noon. 64-91°; light SW wind. Nineteen observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 53 (22 on foot, 30½ by car, ½ by boat); total party miles 245½ (21 on foot, 224 by car, ½ by boat). Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 2; Green Heron, 3; Am. Bittern, 1; Turkey Vulture, 18; Black Vulture, 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 8; King Rail, 1; Killdeer, 26; Woodcock, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellow-legs, 2; Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 68; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Whip-poor-will, 12; Chimney Swift, 48; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Flicker, 13; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 16; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Phoebe, 27; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Wood Pewee, 5; Horned Lark, 2; Bank Swallow, 16; Rough-winged Swallow, 14; Barn Swallow, 8; Purple Martin, 482; Blue Jay, 129; Am. Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 37; Tufted Titmouse, 27; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; House Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 22; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mocking-bird, 50; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 15; Robin, 39; Wood Thrush, 31; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 38; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 79; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Water Pipit, 17; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Shrike, 12; Starling, 50; White-eyed Vireo. 32; Yellow-throated Vireo, 8; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 39; Black and White Warbler. 14; Prothonotary Warbler, 8; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 15; Yellow Warbler, 5; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 7; Myrtle Warbler, 13; Black-throated Green Warbler, 6; Yellow-throated Warbler, 12; Chest-nut-sided Warbler, 12; Pine Warbler, 21; Prairie Warbler, 47; Ovenbird, 3; Small-billed (Northern) Water-Thrush, 2; Louisiana Water Thrush, 6; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellow-throat, 12; Yellow-breasted Chat, 15; Hooded Warbler, 17; Canada Warbler, 2; Am. Redstart, 11; House Sparrow, 50+; Bobolink, 14; Common Meadowlark, 71; Red-winged Blackbird, 254; Orchard Oriole, 6; Rustry Blackbird, 25; Purple Grackle, 21; Cowbird, 2;

Summer Tanager, 28; Cardinal, 50; Blue Grosbeak, 22; Indigo Bunting, 8; Goldfinch, 200+; Eastern Towhee, 13; and these sparrows: Savannah, 2; Grasshopper, 20; Henslow's, 1; Bachman's, 1; Chipping, 35; Field, 45; White-crowned, 1; White-throated, 32; Song Sparrow, 3. Totals: 118 species, about 2,712 individuals. Seen in the area; Apr. 23, an injured **Virginia Rail** was captured. Apr. 24, a Bald Eagle was seen. Participants: John Trott (compiler), Barbara Hatley, Micheal Wilder, William Wilder, Ervin Poplin, Jane Turner, Mrs. Barrett Crook, Mrs. L. A. Price, M. M. Haithcock, Mrs. J. U. Whitlock, Ann Whitlock, Gayle Mahathey, Donald Maner, Tommy Morris, Douglas Miller, Wayne Smith, Susan Greene, Jimmy Thomas, Dwight Morgan.

Raleigh. (area same as in Christmas counts. Lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 40%, deciduous woods 20%, open fields 15%) Apr. 28. Dawn to dusk; cloudy all day, calm, 60-75°. Nine observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 24 (20 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 44 (24 on foot, 20 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Little Blue Heron, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck, 3; Turkey Vulture, 1; Bobwhite, 3; Killdeer, 5; Mourning Dove, 16; Barred Owl, 2; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 8; Crested Flycatcher, 9; Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Least Flycatcher, 1; Wood Pewee, 2; Tree Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 6; Barn Swallow, 6; Purple Martin, 10; Blue Jay, 31; Am. Crow, 26; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; House Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 40; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 8; Robin, 27; Wood Thrush, 25; Hermit Thrush, 2; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 41; Shrike, 5; Starling, 178; White-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 16; Black and White Warbler, 4; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 4; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 29; Pine Warbler, 10; Ovenbird, 4; Yellow-throat, 6; Chat, 9; Hooded Warbler, 8; Redstart, 7; House Sparrow, 150; Meadowlark, 43; Redwing, 35; Cowbird, 50; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 38; Indigo Bunting, 4; Goldfinch, 43; Eastern Towhee, 43; Savannah Sparrow, 5; Grasshopper Sparrow, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 18; Chipping Sparrow, 10; Field Sparrow, 52; White-throated Sparrow, 62; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 10. Total species 80. Total individuals, 1,271. Participants: D. L. Wray (compiler), Robert Overing, Philip Davis, J. W. Johnson, Steve Johnson, James Carlton, Mrs. D. L. Wray, Harry T. Davis, F. B. Meacham. *Raleigh Bird Club.*

Wilmington. (area same as in Christmas counts). Apr. 21. 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Clear, 38-60°, wind NW-S 15-20 m.p.h. Twenty-one observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 79 (46 on foot, 33 by car), total party-miles 345 (48 on foot, 297 by car. Common Loon, 5; Horned Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Brown Pelican, 1; Gannet, 2; Cormorant, 3; Anhinga, 3; Great Blue Heron, 12; Common Egret, 13; Snowy Egret, 16; Tricolored Heron, 6; Little Blue Heron, 8; Green Heron, 9; Black-crowned Night Heron, 4; Am. Bittern, 1; Least Bittern, 3; Glossy Ibis, 1; Gadwall, 3; Am. Widgeon, 15; Blue-winged Teal, 14; Wood Duck, 5; Greater Scaup, 1; Lesser Scaup, 2; Bufflehead, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 1; Osprey, 15; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 4; Turkey, 1; King Rail, 1; Clapper Rail, 6; Sora Rail, 3; Florida Gallinule, 5; Purple Gallinule, 4; Coot, 30; Oyster-catcher, 11; Piping Plover, 1; Semipalmated Plover, 5; Thick-billed Plover, 5; Black-bellied Plover, 11; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 13; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Willet, 62; Greater Yellow-legs, 18; Lesser Yellow-legs, 4; Pectoral Sandpiper, 3; Least Sandpiper, 12; Dunlin, 64; Dowitcher, 4; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 16; Herring Gull, 400; Ring-billed Gull, 750; Laughing Gull, 7; Bonaparte's Gull, 12; Forster's Tern, 1; Common Tern, 1; Least Tern,

28; Royal Tern, 8; Cabot's Tern, 1; Caspian Tern, 7; Black Skimmer, 79; Mourning Dove, 57; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Barred Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 2; Chimney Swift, 24; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 14; Flicker, 39; Pileated Woodpecker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 19; Crested Flycatcher, 24; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Wood Pewee, 5; Tree Swallow, 2500; Bank Swallow, 13; Rough-winged Swallow, 37; Barn Swallow, 43; Cliff Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 79; Blue Jay, 55; Am. Crow, 37; Fish Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 40; Tufted Titmouse, 56; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 38; House Wren, 4; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 33; (Long-billed) Marsh Wren, 3; Sedge (Short-billed) Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 49; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 33; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 8; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 31; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 44; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 78; Shrike, 10; Starling, 120; White-eyed Vireo, 44; Yellow-throated Vireo, 8; Red-eyed Vireo, 26; Warblers: Black and White, 6; Prothonotary, 16; Swainson's, 1; Parula, 45; Yellow, 1; Myrtle, 13; Black-throated Green, 10; Yellow-throated, 66; Black-poll, 1; Pine, 21; Prairie, 43; Palm, 1; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellow-throat, 27; Chat, 1; Hooded Warbler, 34; House Sparrow, 61; Common Meadowlark, 126; Red-winged Blackbird, 240; Orchard Oriole, 71; Boat-tailed Grackle, 54; Purple Grackle, 86; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 14; Cardinal, 46; Blue Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 39; Painted Bunting, 1; Goldfinch, 60; Eastern Towhee, 47; Sparrows: Savannah, 15; Vesper, 2; Bachman's, 2; Chipping, 45; Field, 14; White-throated, 137; Swamp Sparrow, 5. Totals: 162 species, 6,782 individuals. The Gannets were seen by Holmes, the Greater Scaup, Piping Plover, Ovenbird, by Comeau. The Swainson's was seen by Mary Baker. Participants: Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Barney Barnhill, Clifford Comeau, Lt. Comm. G. Dobo, Mrs. Dobo, Marie Glisson, Bob Holmes, Johnson Harriss, Bill James, Harry Latimer, Jr., Polly Mebane, Dr. Barbara Newborg, Dot Reid, Maj. Van Reid, June Sprunt, Jim Sprunt, Jr., Mary Urich, Marie Vander Schalie, Laurence G. Sprunt. *Wilmington Natural Science Club.*

Winston-Salem. (Standard area centering approximately in Reynolda. Deciduous woods and streams 50%, pine woods 5%, old fields 5%, meadows 15%, lawns and parks 10%, lakes 15%). May 5. 5:45 a.m.,-6:00 p.m., clear, 45-68°, wind N to NW, 5-20 m.p.h. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 29 (4 by car, 25 on foot). Total party-miles 43 (36 by car, 7 on foot). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Turkey Vulture, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 1; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Mourning Dove, 26; Nighthawk, 3; Chimney Swift, 21; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 4; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Phoebe, 14; Acadian Flycatcher, 10; Alder Flycatcher, 2; Wood Pewee, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 15; Blue Jay, 16; Am. Crow, 11; Carolina Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 32; Catbird, 34; Brown Thrasher, 16; Am. Robin, 18; Wood Thrush, 16; Hermit Thrush, 3; Olive-backed Thrush, 3; Wilson's Thrush (Veery), 1; Common Bluebird, 32; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 76; Starling, 26; Vireos: White-eyed, 3; Yellow-throated, 4; Blue-headed, 3; Red-eyed, 16; Warblers: Black and White, 2; **Brewster's**, 2; Parula, 8; Yellow, 14; Magnolia, 4; Cape May, 18; Black-throated Blue, 7; Myrtle, 38; Black-throated Green, 2; Yellow-throated, 2; Chestnut-sided, 4; Black-poll, 12; Pine, 5; Prairie, 8; Oven-bird, 13; Yellow-throat, 16; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; Hooded Warbler, 3; Canada, 4; Am. Redstart, 18; House Sparrow, 30; Bobolink, 12; Common Meadowlark, 15; Red-winged Blackbird, 46; Orchard Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 3; Common Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 3; Summer Tanager, 3; Cardinal, 32; Rose-breasted Gros-

(Continued on page 63)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Typewritten manuscript should be double spaced on letter-size white paper.

Cattle Egret Taken in North Carolina.—An adult female Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis ibis)* was taken by me near Kelly, Bladen County, North Carolina (about 25 miles Northwest of Wilmington), April 29, 1956. The single bird was feeding in company with a small herd of Hereford cattle. This is the first record of a collected Cattle Egret in North Carolina. The specimen was donated to, and is now on display in, the N. C. State Museum. —David A. Adams, *N. C. State College, May 10, 1956.*

The Cattle Egret in North Carolina.—I am in receipt of information of some interest in regard to the appearance of the Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis ibis)* in North Carolina as follows:

On Friday, April 20th, 1956, Mrs. Raymond E. Jackson, of Chatham, Mass., was driving north from Florida and saw, between Wilson and Elizabeth City, N. C., a Cattle Egret "feeding in the ditch by the side of the road." She had noted many in Florida and at once recognized it. She states that this specimen had "quite a lot of buffy plumage."

Mrs. Jackson's date of April 20th is the **first sight record** of a Cattle Egret for North Carolina. This is not as surprising as the fact of its not having been reported before! The reference to ditch feeding is interesting, as this has occurred in the Florida Keys on at least two occasions, the birds frequenting the road shoulders and ditches, feeding on insects disturbed by passing cars. Substitution of automobiles for cattle is at least up to the modern history of *Bubulcus* in this country!—Alexander Sprunt, Jr., *The Crescent, Charleston 44, S. C.* (Wilson and Elizabeth City are about 140 miles apart. The highway between them crosses eight counties—an unfortunately vague location for the establishment of a first sight record.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Nesting of Cattle Egrets and Glossy Ibises in the Battery Island Rookery at Southport, N. C.—Battery Island, opposite Southport in the mouth of the Cape Fear River, has been the site of a large and successful multi-specied heron rookery continuously since 1928. This year the estimated nesting population of the usual species, in pairs, was as follows: Common Egret—100, Snowy Egret—45, Tri-colored Heron—160, Little Blue Heron—30. Black-crowned Night Heron—20.

In addition to these five regular species, there were two pairs of Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis ibis)* and about fifteen pairs of the Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis f. falcinellus)*. For both of these rare southern forms, this is a marked northward extension of nesting range of great ornithological interest. It is the first reported nesting of the Cattle Egret in the United States outside of Florida and the first in the Americas in a salt-water situation.

The Cattle Egret. Adams collected the first specimen of the Cattle Egret in North Carolina near Kelly on April 29, 1956 (*Chat*, 20(2):38). At Southport, Adams saw a Cattle Egret regularly this season in the Battery Island rookery from May 20 to June 13. On June 14, Adams and Quay made a more thorough search and found not one but four adult Cattle Egrets. These were two pairs, each with a nest of two young. The nests were four to six feet high, well within the rookery about fifty feet apart, and with nests of other herons between and above them. At this date, the nestlings were 5-6 inches long, their feathers still ensheathed. On June 23, Funderburg and Adams banded three of the young with Harry Davis' bands: #546-06841, #545-06842, #546-06844. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., who visited Battery Island on June 16, tells us that these are the first Cattle Egrets banded in the United States outside of some in 1955 at Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

All four young were at least half-grown and climbing well at the time of our last visit, June 30. The young were clearly distinguishable from the other immature herons by their uniformly darkish, and shorter, bills and legs. One adult landed fifty feet from us in the top of a cedar tree and proceeded to feed both her young. She fed one three times and the other twice from the same gullet-full. She carefully and deliberately sought out her young, forcing aside by threatening bill-thrusts the several young of Common and Snowy Egrets, Tri-colored and Little Blue Herons that were in her way in the same tree top. One of the factors in the increasing spread of the Cattle Egret may be a high order of dominance in relation to other herons. A different adult from the one mentioned above cleared the way to her nest on June 14 by such a peck-order dominance over one adult each of the Snowy Egret and the Tri-colored Heron.

The Glossy Ibis. About 30 adult Glossy Ibises appeared on Battery Island toward the end of April, and were observed regularly all during May by Waters Thompson and David Adams. On May 18 a count found at least twelve active nests with eggs or young. The nests were mixed all through the rookery at middle to low elevations but otherwise without apparent pattern. By June 15 the young were two-thirds or more grown, standing and climbing around in the bushes and trees in family groups. John Funderburg banded two young with Harry Davis' bands on June 23, by which time all but four young ibises had flown. An exact census of fledged young was not obtained, but a good estimate would be about 40 birds. On June 30 there were no young ibises in sight, but 25 or 30 adults were in the bordering marsh. Both the adult and young herons were visible in the marsh, but the adult ibises disappeared from view when they dropped into the marsh grass. The young ibises were probably in the marsh out of view also.

There is one earlier record of the Glossy Ibis nesting in North Carolina (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, "*Birds of North Carolina*", 1942, page 39). This was a single nest with two young found by Waters Thompson in the Battery Island rookery in July, 1940, constituting a range extension of 500 miles northeast of the previous most northern spot in Florida. One unsuccessful nest was found in South Carolina in 1947, in a heron rookery on the South Santee River, Charleston County (Sprunt and Chamberlain, "*South Carolina Bird Life*", 1949, page 99). It is to Waters Thompson that the credit goes again this year for first finding the Glossy Ibises at Southport.—T. L. QUAY and DAVID A. ADAMS, *N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C., July 11, 1956*

Glossy Ibises In The Mattamuskeet Area.—On Apr. 20, 1956, Mrs. Norwood and I observed a flock of Glossy Ibises *(Plegadis f. falcinellus)* settling into the egret roost located about a half mile up the canal from the lodge

at Lake Mattamuskeet (Hyde County), N. C.

Earlier that week in Raleigh, Director Harry T. Davis of the State Museum had alerted us that Glossy Ibises had been seen recently in Edgecombe County and along the Alligator River. Since we were headed for the Alligator River country, we had some slight hope of sighting this bird of peninsular Florida that only recently has wandered to North Carolina. Arriving at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, we saw Manager Willie G. Cahoon and discussed with him the possibility that the Glossy might be in the vicinity. He had seen none.

We went to the egret roost at about 5:30 p.m., (following a northeasterly squall) to watch the egrets come in for the night. At about 6:15 Mrs. Norwood spotted through the trees a flock of large birds wheeling over the roost in perfect formation. As they made another pass overhead, I sighted through the 7x35X binoculars and noted the down curved bill, dark body and outstretched neck. They were Glossy Ibises, and the flock wheeled and circled several times more before settling into the trees on both sides of the canal—some of the birds were as close as 25 feet to our car. Several were seen in good light on the opposite bank, and through the binoculars, the chestnut color of the neck and the greenish-black color of the body were clearly noted. The bill appeared lighter. The Common Egrets seemed to resent the dark intruders and some lunged at nearby Ibises. We hastened to notify Mr. Cahoon of the unusual visitors at Mattamuskeet; he returned to the roost with us and estimated the flock (which again took wing on our approach) at twenty-five.

We returned the next morning at daybreak and watched the Egrets and Ibises take off. The flight formation of the Glossy Ibis was striking in comparison to that of the Egret which straggled off in ones, twos and small groups. We didn't see them again prior to our departure that day but Mr. Cahoon reports (May 7) that he saw them again on that afternoon (Apr. 21) but not since.—Joseph R. Norwood, *Charlotte, N. C.* (See also: *Chat*, June '56 p. 38).

Black and Wood Duck Nesting Notes.—On May 29, 1956 a half grown Black Duck, a bird in "flapper" stage, about *forty-five to fifty days old*, was brought to me by a fisherman. The bird had been caught on a set hook and was in a dying condition from mouth injuries. Rumors and reports of nesting Black Ducks have come to me for several seasons but this was the first real proof that this bird nests in Robeson County, N. C. It was recovered in Big Swamp, an area wintering many Blacks and Mallards. This was not an adult in molt but a young bird. Also, one fisherman of my acquaintance has seen the nest of Black Duck on Lumber River.

Back of my house we have several Wood Duck boxes up; also there are several good cavities in cypress trees within the town limits of Lumberton, along the (Lumber) river. This year in March a pair of wild Wood Ducks laid eggs in a cavity about 60 feet up in a cypress. If natural cavities are available they seem to prefer these to boxes but plenty of boxes do a lot to attract the birds to the locality. All during March it was very interesting each evening to see the drake and hen visit the nest tree. The ducks hatched in late April and the old woodie took the brood down stream about 800 yards to a little half-acre pond covered with pondweeds not over 50 feet from the river. The downtown section of Lumberton is less than 300 yards from this pond. The town mosquito control crew sprayed the area every week but despite these interruptions the little ducks grew and were seen every day for two months. Including the hen all 14 woodies survived right in town. The neighbors helped and hundreds of people saw these half-tame birds. By the first of July water was out of the little pond and the ducks were all on the wing. The habitat was excellent, even though in town, and these town-raised woodies furnished a lot of pleasure for a lot of people. Twenty years ago some boy would have shot them before they could have reached maturity. This points out the value of wildlife conservation education. We are making progress.

Due to high water levels and plenty of flat water areas, Wood Duck

nesting all up and down the river has been very, very good; the best in five years.—JAMES L. STEPHENS, *Lumberton, N. C.*

A Record of the Golden Eagle in North Carolina—The Golden Eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos canadensis)* is a rare bird in the eastern United States. There are a few records in North Carolina and rumors of nesting in the mountains, but any occurrence of this eagle of the western mountains in this State is worthy of report.

On June 13, 1956, John Funderburg and I were visiting in Fayetteville, studying the several yards there to which Baltimore Orioles and Evening Grosbeaks have been coming in recent winters. Major Edward Kaufman had first showed us his outdoor feeders and then taken us and Mrs. Whitfield inside to see some photographs. In one corner of the Major's den, on a separate mantle, stood a handsome mounted Golden Eagle.

Major Kaufman explained that he had shot this eagle in either late December, 1937 or early January, 1938, on the Fort Bragg reservation where he was stationed. As was his frequent custom, he was out hunting wild turkeys one cold morning deep in the mixed woods along Little Rock Fish Creek. He and his dog were hiding in a blind watching a flock of turkeys. The Golden Eagle swooped into view and down upon a turkey. The Major shot and retrieved the golden-headed raptor. It was such a fine specimen that Major Kaufman had it skinned out by Major James Boylan of Wilmington, and mounted by a commercial company, after satisfying the concern about his collector's permit.——T. L. QUAY, *Raleigh, N. C., 10 July 1956.*

King Rail in Richland County, S. C.—On May 8, 1956 Mrs. Simons and I were riding in the country about 3 miles southeast of Columbia on a dirt road surrounded by farming land that reaches to the Congaree River, off of Bluff Road when we came to a dead standstill to let a King Rail run across in front of the car. This is one of the few records of this species for the Lexington-Richland Counties Check List, compiled and kept up by the Columbia Bird Club. A nest, found "near Columbia" in 1909, is recorded in *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949).—CHARLES I. SIMONS, *Columbia, S. C.*

Red Phalaropes Storm Victims.—On Apr. 14, 1956, three days after the severe northeast storm on the 11th, a group composed of J. E. Ames, P. Dulaney, C. C. Garbin, F. C. Richardson, and I made a trip to the Outer Banks of Dare County, N. C. We got a total count of 23 Red Phalaropes. The first 3 birds that we saw of this species were in a ditch at Nags Head and upon close observation were found to be unable to fly. These 3 birds were collected and are now in the Norfolk Museum. There were quite a number of Red Phalaropes on the Pea Island Refuge, up to 10 in one group. The last birds recorded were a number of miles south of the refuge area. All were observed with 7 x 35 and 10 x 50 binoculars. A few of the birds were hurt, but most of them could fly.

There must have been a good migration of these birds off the coast for this many to have been blown ashore.—PAUL SYKES, JR., *Norfolk, Va.*

Two Long-eared Owl Records.—Although the Long-eared Owl may not be rare in either of the Carolinas it is seldom reported. A recent North Carolina record and a delayed one from South Carolina are of interest.

On Apr. 15, 1956 I found a Long-eared Owl south of High Point, Guilford Co., N. C., It was first seen about 6:15 a.m., perched 20 feet high in the upper part of a small Cedar tree, in moderately thick, mixed, dry, scrubby woods. The owl remained quiet but turned its head to watch me constantly as I observed it closely from all sides. It remained in the same place during the day, being observed again about 7:30 a.m., and, in company with George Smith, about 4:30 p.m. The bird was very closely observed at close range on all occasions, with and without glasses, and finally flew from the perch about 4:30 p.m.

The feathered area about the bill, shown as white on the Peterson and other plates, was not white on this bird, but a dark gray.

The bird appeared to be healthy, and the plumage in good condition. It maintained its position in the rather strong gusts of wind that occasionally

blew through the area, causing the small tree top to wave about, and it flew normally when it left the perch. No pellets could be found beneath the perch, but the ground was covered with leaves which might have been displaced during the recent storms making any pellets hard to find.

April 15th was heavily overcast all day, with intermittent showers and moderately gusty winds. It was preceded by several days of rather strong winds and stormy conditions.—JAMES MATTOCKS, *High Point, N. C.*

During October, 1954 a Long-eared Owl was trapped by H. B. Clinton on his farm in the northwestern part of York County, S. C. The specimen was mounted for the Children's Nature Museum of Rock Hill by Mrs. Howard Thomas, and is now on exhibition there.

The area surrounding the Clinton farm is composed of a densely wooded section bordered by peach orchards and cleared fields with one farm house and outbuildings within 50 feet of a lake approximately two acres in area. The owl was captured in the back yard of this farm house in a steel trap that had been placed approximately 30 feet off the ground in the stump of an old dead tree that overlooked a pen of young pheasants. The trap was not baited. It had been placed in a particular spot in the tree where the birds of prey commonly stop to gaze with the possibility of catching a young pheasant.—J. LEE SETTLEMYRE, JR., *Director, Children's Nature Museum, Rock Hill, S. C.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Beaufort County, N. C.—On June 27, 1956 I collected a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *(Muscivora forficata)* for the State Museum. I saw the bird at about 10:00 a.m., about 7 miles east of Chocowinity, Beaufort County, N. C., on State Highway No. 33. It was perched on a power wire and was active after insects in the air and on the ground. The site was an open, mowed field, with woods no nearer than one half mile away. It is a part of the J. E. Hodges cattle farm. The flycatcher made a harsh call note and did some chattering.

After observing no sign of a second bird or of a flight to the woods that might indicate nesting, I telephoned Harry Davis, Director of the State Museum, and verified the fact that there was no specimen from the state there. I collected it and sent it to Raleigh by bus.—ROBERT L. WOLFF, *Greenville, N. C.*

Brewster's Warblers in Both Carolinas.—The following are the first reports we have had in recent years of the occurrence in our territory of hybrids of the Blue-winged and Yellow-winged Warblers. The observations were made six days apart at locations separated by 150 air line miles, but both in the Piedmont region.

On Apr. 28, 1956, James B. Shuler, Jr., found a warbler he described as the Brewster type, at Greenville, S. C. He was able to watch the bird at some length and to observe it carefully. He returned to the location the following day with a friend and both saw it again. The wing-patch was white and the belly was yellow.

At Winston-Salem, N. C., on the occasion of the Spring Count there, Robert H. Witherington reported a bird he and others watched. His report follows, in full:

"At about 10:30 a.m., May 5, 1956, on Silas Creek, 25 yards south of Reynolda Rd., Charles M. Frost and Robert H. Witherington identified a Brewster's Warbler. The bird was observed about one and one-half minutes from 20 feet with 7 x 35 binoculars. The notes written at the time are as follows—yellow crown, heavy yellow wing-bar, thin eye line, and grayish throat. The bird did not sing. No yellow could be observed on the abdomen.

"Dr. and Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer observed a Brewster's Warbler on the same creek about 25 yards farther south about 4 p.m. the same day. They did not know that we had seen this species earlier in the day. They observed the bird for about 5 minutes and identified it at the site. It is possible that both parties observed the same bird."—*Dept. Ed.*

Dickcissels at Spartanburg, S. C.—Yesterday afternoon, (May 20, 1956) Dr. and Mrs. John O. Watkins were out near the Springdale Dairy plant. He heard a strange bird song and soon found that it came from a Dick-

cissel. There were at least three of them—a male and 2 females.

Knowing that I had never seen a Dickcissel, John phoned me and while he watched the birds, Mary Leigh drove the two miles to our place and then back to the pasture where we listened to the song, a new one for me. Soon we saw a male light on the top of a weed and face me while he sang. There could be no doubt of what it was. Both male and female were singing and the song appears to be the same by both.—GABRIEL CANNON, *Spartanburg, S. C.* (Later trips to the pasture showed that there were as least 5 Dickcissels there. Some were carrying food but no nest was found.—*Dept. Ed.*)

The Return of the Evening Grosbeaks.—The 1955-56 wintering of Evening Grosbeaks in the Carolinas is particularly noteworthy in that it established a substantial irruption in two successive years; a departure from the accepted pattern. Unfortunately, the too prompt return of these visitors with their enormous appetites for expensive sunflower seed did not seem so noteworthy to many of our observers and our records suffered. Major Edward Kaufman's experience during the 1954-55 appearances at his yard at Fayetteville, N. C., was shared, on a smaller scale, by a good many. His account follows: "Ten to twelve of them appeared at my feeders about Feb. 1, 1955; the number gradually increased and about Feb. 20th, I could count nearly 100; about Apr. 15 they started to leave and the last ones departed May 10. Most of the birds were females—about 80% females—and several of them had been banded. To the best of my knowledge they ate practically nothing but sunflower seeds and usually fed from about 30 minutes after daylight until around 1 p.m. Mrs. Gouldman, who lives about 400 yards from us, has a feeding station and quite a number of the grosbeaks fed there. About March 15, they began to get gentle—they were very wary for a while—and by April 10, they would allow me, but no one else, to approach them with no apparent fear and I made a few snapshots of them at six feet." Maj. Kaufman operates a self-designed and self-manufactured automatic feeder with a hopper capacity of 35 pounds of sunflower seed. There are three other feeders in his yard "but the grosbeaks prefer the big one."

First arrivals of the 1955-56 period were noted on Nov. 26 in western N. C. The deepest penetration was along coastal S. C., within nine miles of Charleston, where, on Feb. 10, two were seen by Miss Catherine Langley. Ellison Williams and Arthur Wilcox promptly visited the site and on Feb. 12 they saw a single adult male in the yard of the late Arthur T. Wayne, close by the Langley place, where it remained for several days. Other S. C. coast reports came from: McClellanville where Victor Kay saw over 25 from Mar. 13-18; Myrtle Beach, Feb. 17, a flock of at least 50 was seen by Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Savary; Aynor, in Horry Co., where Mrs. Charles found a single female, Feb. 18 and a flock of 17, Mar. 21. No reports came from central or western S. C. this winter but the grosbeaks were fairly well spread across upper N. C. A brief account of their sojourn at the Tennessee border on Roan Mountain (Mitchell Co.), sent to us by Fred W. Behrend follows: "All observations listed were at altitudes of from 5500 to near 6200 ft., on the Carolina side of the mountain. Evening Grosbeaks stayed in substantial numbers in the same locality during the winter 1954-55. Observations during the 1955-56 season:

Nov. 26—flock of 6-12
Dec. 31—about 20
Jan. 2—about 18
" 22—5
" 28—about 20
Feb. 4—40-
" 11—70-80
" 19—1
" 26—flocks totalling about 60
Mar. 3—1
" 10—30-40
" 17—flocks totalling 40-60
" 30—flock of about 10
" 31—flocks totalling about 25
Apr. 7—flocks totalling about 40
" 15—1
" 21—flocks totalling about 25

Last dates of observation of Evening Grosbeaks on Roan Mt., were on the Tennessee side at 3800 feet on Apr. 28, a total of 150—in substantially

one flock, and at 4200 feet on May 6, a flock of 10."

Farther west along the Tennessee border, in the Gatlinburg area, Stupka and party found 75 grosbeaks for their Christmas count, Dec. 26.

The December arrivals began at Henderson. Mrs. A. W. Bachman reported a male and 2 females there on Dec. 3. On the 6th, and again on the 11th, the Mays and the Bernards shared views of 1 or 2 at their adjacent feeders. On the 7th and 8th, 1 female appeared at Mrs. W. C. Davison's feeder at Durham. On Jan. 7 they were first seen at Rocky Mount, where they wintered in considerable numbers—influenced no doubt by Bill Joyner's large scale feeding during last winter. The Rocky Mount colony was estimated up to 500 birds. Joyner saw a flock he estimated at 200 and on actual count of 100 he found that they "ran about 40% adult males." On Jan. 10, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood watched a flock of at least 15 grosbeaks on highway No. 64 near Robersonville, Martin County. Only 4 were adult males and one of those had been killed by a car. The birds were feeding on grass or weed seeds, or getting gravel on the shoulder of the highway and flushed only temporarily as each car passed. At North Wilkesboro Wendell P. Smith found 3 birds, Jan. 12. On Jan. 24, while driving through Williamston at about 1:00 p.m., Rod Amundson estimated 200 feeding in the yards of homes along Main Street. The February reporting was confined to those already given on the S. C. coast. During March up to 50 Evening Grosbeaks were at the feeder of James C. Tilghman at Weldon. They remained there until Apr. 23. The group at Durham was not seen after Mar. 10. At Raleigh, Tom Quay reported 1 on Mar. 8; 15, Mar. 11; and 35, Mar. 13. Also at Raleigh, D. L. Wray saw 5 in the heart of the city, Mar. 19, and 20 on Mar. 20. Mrs. J. H. LeRoy, Jr., reported 15 or more eating sunflower seed at her feeder at Elizabeth City, Mar. 17 & 19. In a visit to Edenton, Mar. 25, Mrs. A. W. Bachman saw 15 or more grosbeaks in maple trees in St. Paul's Church yard. Quay reported 40 birds at Raleigh, only 4 of which were adult males, on Apr. 13. At Elkin, Apr. 9, Linville Hendren had 2 males and 3 females at his feeders. He also saw them eating sugar maple seed in the trees nearby.

The 17 Evening Grosbeaks that Mrs. G. E. Charles fed at Aynor, S. C., during March, dwindled in numbers and finally left in a group of 7 on Apr. 17. In North Carolina, the birds remained at Rocky Mount until May 4, and at Henderson until May 7.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

Lark Bunting at Charleston, S. C.—A male Lark Bunting *(Calamospiza melanocorys)* appeared in our yard at Edgewater Park, across the Ashley River from Charleston, S. C., on Feb. 9, 1956. Mrs. Metcalf saw him first on the telephone wire that leads into our house and thought she had a Bobolink who lacked the normal white and pale yellow on his back. We got the glasses—he was only sixty feet away in the rain—and made sure of his identity. She knew him in Nebraska and I had seen great flocks in Oklahoma and Kansas many years ago.

On Feb. 12 he showed up at our feeder table, within 7 feet of the living room window. And three days later we saw a female on a phone wire over the marsh just north of the Edgewater Park bridge over Wappoo Creek. This appears to be the third record for the Low Country. Wayne shot a female in Christ Church Parish, Apr. 19, 1895, and Dr. Ralph Edwards saw one a year ago on Bulls Island, during the Christmas count—Dec. 27, 1954.—ISAAC S. METCALF, *Charleston, S. C.*

Briefs for the Files.

Horned Grebe, 1 in breeding plumage, Anderson's Pond, Rocky Mount, May 2, J. W. E. Joyner. **Ruddy Duck**, 1 near Garysburg, Northampton Co., N. C., May 4, J. R. Norwood. **Osprey**, inland rather early: North Wilkesboro, Apr. 21, Wendell Smith; Winston-Salem, May 4; Chapel Hill, where Roy M. Brown watched one fishing, May 8; and Charlotte at the Spring Count, May 12, B. R. Chamberlain. **Duck Hawk**, 2 at Swift Creek, Raleigh, Apr. 17, T. L. Quay. **Coot**, single, late at Rocky Mt., Apr. 25, Joyner. **Ruddy Turnstone**, 8 on ocean beach, Ft. Fisher, May 29, Sarah Nooe; 1 male at

Duck, N. C., June 14, full breeding plumage, Joyner. **Woodcock**, 1 at Ardea, McClellanville, Apr. 21, Robt. D. Edwards. **Wilson's Snipe**, 1 at Anderson's Pond, Rocky Mt., May 13, Joyner. **Lesser Yellow-legs**, a very large flock, McClellanville, May 1, RDE. **Knot**, 1 at Santee Gun Club—rare away from the beach—May 19, RDE; 2 on mud flats at Duck, June 11, JWEJ. **Western Sandpiper**, 1 at Old Town, 6 mi. East of Rocky Mt., May 24, JWEJ. **Black-necked Stilt**, 1 at Beaufort, N. C., May 19, TLQ; 12 or more at Santee Gun Club, South Santee River, Charleston Co., July 13—several feigning injury, RDE, BRC. **Black Tern**, single at Ward's Pond, Rocky Mt., June 3 & 4, JWEJ. **Great Black-backed Gull**, lone adult feeding on sand bank, Oregon Inlet—appeared to be in good health—June 15, JWEJ. **Whip-poor-will**, heard at Troy, Apr. 10, Frances M. Covington, **Eastern Kingbird**, 1, Elkin, Apr. 9, Linville Hendren. **Catbird**, 1 at feeder at Fayetteville, Feb. 10, Mrs. Roscoe Hauser. **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1, North Wilkesboro, Apr. 27, WPS. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 1 at Elkin, Apr. 26, LH. **Black-poll Warbler**, 1, McClellanville, May 18, RDE; 1, North Wilkesboro, May 20, WPS; 1 heard and seen in pecan tree in city yard, Salisbury, May 30, JRN. **Connecticut Warbler**, 1 examined carefully, May 6, at North Wilkesboro, WPS. **Indigo Bunting**, flock of 6, Stumpy Point, Dare Co., Apr. 18, JRN; Outer Banks of Dare Co., Apr. 19, JRN. **Purple Finch**, 1 female or immature at feeding station at Winston-Salem. May 9, R. H. Witherington. **Slate-colored Junco**, 1 at City Lake, Rocky Mt., Apr. 21, JWEJ. **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1, Elkin, Apr. 29, LH. **White-throated Sparrow**, 1, McClellanville, May 8, RDE; 1, Troy, May 12, FMC. **Song Sparrow**, 3 or more, some singing, Salisbury, May 29 and again June 17, believed to be nesting there, JRN. *All dates 1956*

—CBC—

(Continued from page 47)

poor-will" is uttered rapidly, has a sharp quality, while the other bird's voice has a "crowing" sound. The "Whip's" song can scarcely be heard a quarter of a mile.

The calls of *vociferus* that have come to my attention, are:

1. The "whip-poor-will" song.

   The birds are in song when they arrive in coastal South Carolina in late August. So far, my record of August 25, 1953 is the earliest. The song continues well into October, the twelfth of that month, 1953, being the latest.

   The song begins again in February (February 22, 1949, earliest) and continues until the bird departs in April.

2. A sharp "whip, whip" which closely resembles a call of the wild Turkey.

3. A single, loud note, almost identical with the opening note of the Summer Tanager's song.—*Middleburg Plantation, Huger, S. C., May 28, 1956.*

[For notes on the rates of calls of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills, see B. R. Chamberlain, *The Chat*, June, 1954, p. 46.—*Ed.*]

—CBC—

(Continued from page 55)

beak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 16; Pine Siskin, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 145; Eastern Towhee, 19; Sparrows: Savannah, 2; Grasshopper, 13; Chipping, 28; Field, 8; White-throated, 37; Song Sparrow, 8. Totals: 88 species, about 1,100 individuals.. (The Brewster Warbler is also recorded elsewhere in this issue. Participants: Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Dr. & Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer, Charles M. Frost, Robert H. Witherington (compiler).

Founded March 6, 1937 *Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	$1.00	Contributing	$25.00
Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat* and the *Newsletter*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph—Eastern Phoebe, by Jack Dermid, Route 5, Raleigh, N. C.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Sometimes I wonder at the value of one dollar. That is, as it affects us over a one year's period as individuals, or as individual members of the Carolina Bird Club. Really I wonder if the suggested plan of changing our regular membership fee from $1.00 to $2.00 is such a disturbing factor as some would make us believe. Or is it the psychology of the word "increase"? Anyway here is something of what one dollar means to us as individuals:

To those of us who smoke. We could cut out two cigarettes each week. There would be our one dollar.

To those of us who like tea or coffee. We could forego one cup, at cafe prices, each month and have our one dollar.

If we should give up one Coca-Cola, or other soft drink, every two and one-half weeks our one dollar would pop up.

If you eat two eggs for breakfast just cut out one of the eggs every third week and there is your one dollar.

Cut out one dessert, or dish of ice cream, once a month for nine months and you have your one dollar again.

Some of us might like a high-ball. Cut out two in one year and your one dollar has popped up.

Now what would these individual one dollars mean collectively to the Carolina Bird Club?

In the first place the additional income would enable CBC to carry out its promises and obligations printed on its membership application blanks. It would help the club do some constructive and educational work. It would make it possible for the club to award the scholarships as provided for in a resolution adopted at the Charlotte meeting last March. It would enable the club to become more than a purely social club as it now is. Certainly we should be able to make the club more attractive to younger persons and bring more of them into the club. The additional income should enable the club to grow in importance and usefulness, certainly to a position where it might at some future time take some part in the operation of sanctuaries, even the ownership of sanctuaries.

As of September 30, 1956, the CBC treasury had a balance of $431.86 in its checking account and $938.91 in its savings account. The September Newsletter, one more issue of the Chat and a December Newsletter and other minor operating expenses for this year are to come out of the checking account, which will leave little, if any, funds in that account. In the savings account of $938.91 are included five life memberships which total $500.00. The club has a total of seven life memberships two of which have been turned over to the endowment fund by request of the subscribing members. The five remaining should be taken from the active savings account and placed in a trust fund, or separate account, for all time, and only the earnings from the same used. Should this be done the $938.91 will be reduced to $438.91 which is our entire savings for the past twenty years—the entire life of the club. This represents a savings, or accumulation of less than $25.00 per year for all the years the club has been in existence.

Would we lose members if we changed from one dollar to two dollars for the regular membership? Many of us who are truly interested in the growth and welfare of the Carolina Bird Club don't think there will be any appreciable loss. True there may be a few. We have those losses anyway on the one dollar membership. We should not only be able to hold our members who are truly interested in the work and service of CBC, but we should be able to build a stronger membership because of the greater service we shall be able to render.

FRED H. MAY

BIRD NAVIGATION AS RELATED TO MIGRATION

James B. Shuler, Jr.

That birds can navigate is proved by many records of the annual return of individual migrants to the same locality. How such navigation is accomplished is one of the more perplexing problems of ornithology.

It is commonly thought that "homing" plays a major part in avian navigation. Homing may be defined as the ability of a bird to return to a point without reference to topographic clues or memory of the direction taken in the departure from that point. The supposition is that the bird is able to orient itself at the beginning of its journey by observation of the position of the sun or by detection of magnetic or gravitational forces.

Except for the migratory journey it is difficult to see how homing could play an important part in avian survival. The only natural agency which is likely to displace a bird from its home grounds is wind, and the only time when a speedy return would be important is the nesting season. Sea-birds might seem particularly vulnerable, but a storm violent enough to blow the birds away would in most cases destroy the nests. With the eggs or young gone the displaced bird would have time to return by means other than homing.

Winds strong enough to blow birds away from their nests are not likely to occur at close intervals on a given nesting ground. Even in the hurricane-haunted Caribbean there are many small islands which have not experienced a big storm in decades. Even here, hurricane season does not begin until after nesting season is over.

It is the belief of the writer that birds navigate on the migratory journey by means other than homing, that migration routes are a part of the social knowledge of each species, and that homing as a natural phenomenon is unproved.

The Sun-Arc theory of the English ornithologist, Dr. Mathews, enjoys a position of eminence in the present day attempts to explain homing by other than occult means. Reduced to its simplest terms this theory postulates that birds can navigate by observing the difference in distance above the horizon of the sun at noon at the bird's home point and that of the point from which the bird wishes to return. As one moves north above the equator the position of the sun at noon is lower and lower in the sky. By observing this difference the bird is said to be able to detect its north or south displacement. To determine how far to the east or west of home the bird is, it is theorized to be able to note the difference in sun-time between the home point and the displacement point. Thus, if the sun is exactly overhead at the displacement point when the bird knows that at home the sun would be only a quarter up in the sky, the bird divines that it is east of its home.

An additional refinement of the theory is that birds are able to extend the arc of the sun forward, or backward if the time is past noon, to the noon position and thus are able to navigate any time of day. Birds are claimed to do this by detecting the movement of the sun along its arc by a few seconds observation. The Mathews theory is open to criticism on several fronts. Some of his experiments which seem to indicate immediate accurate orien-

tation can be explained in ways other than the Sun-Arc theory. The Manx Shearwater released in Boston which found its way back to its nest on the English coast in twelve and a half days, being a sea-bird would naturally fly out over the Atlantic on the initial part of its trip home. This bird also had the advantage of westerly winds and for the greater part of the journey ocean currents flowing toward England. An illuminating paper by Arnould-Taylor and Malewski demonstrates the importance of topographic clues in the experiments of Mathews and others. These factors, unmentioned in the Mathews papers, greatly weaken the statistical case presented.

That the birds themselves don't "trust" their own sense of homing is evidenced in several experiments. Immature storks, when transported from western Europe to eastern Europe follow the native birds in a southeast direction rather than the southwest direction common to the storks of western Europe. Young storks held captive until after the old birds had flown south showed a southeast trend which was interpreted by Mathews as evidence of an innate tendency for the birds to migrate in that direction. However, the Rhine valley stretches to the southwest from the release point, and it does not seem unlikely that the young storks simply followed this natural highway, perhaps aided by the southward flow of air typical in winter.

The tendency of birds seeking a distant goal to follow certain topographic features has been noted by many observers. Hitchcock, following pigeons in an airplane, observed a reluctance in pigeons to descend from a height once gained and also an apparent recognition of the river which flowed past the nest site. When pigeons seeking the home loft, reached the river they would alter their direction and fly up or down the valley. Griffin showed that pigeons could be fooled by releasing them in an area offering a similar pattern of lakes to the home area. Birds released under such conditions would fly in a predictable path.

The Griffin experiments with gannets released at an inland point and followed by an airplane, give convincing evidence that gannets, at least, are unable to home by any direct means. These birds flew in a spiral from the release point, possibly seeking a river or the coast along which they could explore in a less random fashion.

Kramer has been able to demonstrate in a very important series of experiments that starlings are able to detect a given direction as long as the sun is visible. These experiments have been repeated with several birds, including the Western Meadowlark, and almost all show this ability. Here we have demonstrated the "compass" which birds must have to keep on course while migrating over areas without landmarks. Night-migrants present another problem. Two Italian professors have shown that the crustacean *Talitrus* can orient itself with regard to the sea in either sunlight or moonlight, but in complete darkness is confused. Since it is thought that moonlight nights favor migration at night, the possibility of the moon as a direction indicator should be considered.

The Shining Cuckoo *(Chalcitus lucidus)* of New Zealand winters in the Solomon Islands. This bird is parasitic as to breeding, a fact which has led Griffin and Mathews, among others, to cite it as an example of a bird

which could not possibly find its way to its wintering grounds without an inherited knowledge of the direction in which to fly. Personal communication with Dr. W. R. B. Oliver of Wellington, New Zealand, disclosed the following, quoted from Dr. Oliver's letter: "There are records of young birds (Shining Cuckoos) associating together and of old cuckoos feeding and training the young ones." Dr. Oliver did not elaborate on what the "training" was. The observation that the adult birds do associate with the immatures before the young have to make their first journey over the South Pacific to the distant Solomons, eliminates the Shining Cuckoo from the examples which seem to prove biological inheritance of a knowledge of migration routes.

Social Basis of Migration and Flight-calls

The annual migration can be interpreted as a social phenomenon. In some species it is undeniably an activity learned from older birds. Mathews mentions Mallards, resident in England, which when moved to Finland as immatures, migrated with the local population. Thus we have the example of a bird having the necessary physical equipment for migration, but lacking the example of older birds, migrating when provided with older birds to follow. Ringing recoveries show that these Mallards actually flew to the wintering grounds of the Finnish ducks.

The Whooping Cranes are known to travel in family groups, and their migration from an extremely limited nesting area to an equally limited wintering range can only be explained as migrating over a known route. It is important to keep in mind that though these cranes are a relict species, in the immediate past they were spread over a large wintering and breeding range. This fact precludes the development of a race innately tending to winter at Aransas Pass and nest in the extremely localized area in Northern Canada.

The pattern of Whooping Crane migration is important as an example of a social habit leading to the survival of a segment of the population. It does not seem unlikely that the same history applies to other relict species. If this is true we are faced with the problem of explaining how the night-migrating birds of a relict species are able to teach their young the route to their confined wintering quarters. The Kirtland Warbler which winters only in the Bahama Islands typifies this problem. I would like to suggest that in the night, chip-call communication is used, not only by those birds wintering in restricted areas, but also by birds with wider distribution.

If these calls have biological significance, and it seems difficult to believe that such a widespread activity should be placed in a category of biological waste, then intra-specific-communication is the logical answer. Experimental proof of this theory is unlikely, as the whole activity takes place in the unseen reaches of the night sky. There are several observations which suggest that night migrants indeed communicate by flight calls.

In Greenville, S. C., around the McDaniel Heights Apartment Buildings is a small flock of wintering White-crowned Sparrows. This flock has never been observed to number more than six individuals; two or three adults and as many immatures. They have been present for at least the last three years. As a wintering bird, the White-crowned Sparrow is very

rare in S. C. This colony is one of only two we know, and yet these few isolated birds are able to return each year and bring immatures to a localized wintering ground.

In view of the rarity of resident White-crowns, an accidental or coincidental meeting of the adults and immatures seems remote. This is not to infer that these sparrows are a family group. Rather the theory is advanced that the young followed the old birds, through flight-calls, to Greenville.

Wm. Griffin of Atlanta located in 1953 a small flock of wintering White-crowns in Atlanta. In Georgia, like North and South Carolina, the distribution of the White-crowned sparrow is one of small isolated colonies. Mr. Griffin collected from this flock a Harris's Sparrow. A second record for the Harris's Sparrow in Georgia was one trapped in Athens. This record was noteworthy as accompanying it in the trap was a White-crowned Sparrow. South Carolina has no record for the Harris's Sparrow, but in North Carolina it was recorded by Burleigh, again in a small flock of White-crowns.

The Harris's Sparrow winters well to the west of the South Atlantic states in a narrow north-south strip stretching from Texas to Nebraska. The White-crowned and the Harris's breed in the same area touching on Hudson Bay. If a Harris's became separated from its kind on migration, especially if an immature making its first trip to the south, I think it likely that it would follow birds with flight-calls most nearly resembling its own. Within the genus *Zonotrichia* the bird with the "chip" said to nearly resemble Harris's is the White-crowned. Pough describes the Harris's call as a loud metallic "spink," with that of the White-crowned a "chink." The White-throat on the other hand is listed as a lisping "sst." It is noteworthy that of the three Harris's records listed above, two were immatures and the age of the third bird was not given.

We are faced with deciding if these two sparrows associated coincidentally in an area where one is a rarity and the other accidental. If this is ruled out we are left with the explanation that the two birds made the migratory trip together, maintaining communication through flight calls, or the Harris's Sparrow in the southeast seek out White-crowns. It does not seem possible that the Harris's Sparrow would be able to cover the area necessary to make the location of White-crowns probable.

The Bobolink, with its recent extension in range brought about by the establishment of wet meadows and fields in the arid west, is an example which tends to support a theory of navigation based on learning rather than instinct. Since the settlement of the country, and thus very recently from a biological viewpoint, the Bobolink has established colonies as far west as California and Oregon. These birds do not migrate in a southward direction when they begin their journey. Rather they return over the route of colonization many hundreds of miles to the east, before they turn south for their winter home. To explain this route in any other way than an accumulated social knowledge, added to as each generation pushed a few miles farther west, requires deft mental gymnastics. One has to postulate a genetic change for each westward extension of the Bobolinks range to

explain why these birds did not simply fly south in the direction that their ancestors took.

There are some species, in which in part, at least, the young leave after the old birds. This has been almost universally accepted as evidence that the young have an inherited sense of direction which enables them to make the southward journey alone. Of these birds, possibly the most widely known are the Golden Plovers. The route of the adult Plovers may be described as highly sophisticated. The old birds leave the east coast of Canada and fly thousands of miles to the Northern Coast of South America, a route which must be the result of many years of development and modification. The young, left behind on the Canadian tundra, seem to wander southward, finally wintering on the Gulf coast.

If we accept as fact the theory that biological heredity is the method by which knowledge of the migration route is passed from one generation to the next we have in the Golden Plover a truly complicated pattern. A pattern which not only does not come into operation until the second year of the Plovers' lives, thus wasting use in the first year of a route which must offer considerable survival value, but preventing the young and mature birds from even using the same wintering grounds. In spring the Golden Plovers wintering in South America fly north up the Mississippi Valley, picking up, so to speak, the young wintering on the Gulf Coast.

The young Plovers, apparently of early nesting, which do migrate at the same time as the old birds, fly with them over the Atlantic. If these young are acting out an inherited plan one asks why they do not follow the same route used by the young who leave later and have no experienced birds to guide them.

The fact that those young Plovers left behind do migrate in a generally southerly direction, seems on the face of it, evidence of an inherited tendency to migrate in a certain direction. Without the old birds, it may be argued, the birds of the year follow the most natural route within the limits of the inherited tendency to fly south. The Mississippi Valley, that great mid-continental trough, appears a natural funnel for many migratory species. Surely the tundra swarms with birds of many families, which, with the approach of winter, merge to form a continuous stream toward the gentle climate of the south. Those young Golden Plovers if old enough, follow their parents out over the Atlantic. Is it unreasonable to suggest that the immatures left behind are oriented by the southward flight of kindred species?

The possibility that birds determine the direction in which they ultimately migrate, through an inherited sense of direction, has the weight of a good part of the recent literature on that subject behind it. In many of the homing experiments recently performed, topographic clues, not taken into account by the experimenter, have been shown to dilute at least, the statistical evidence offered. There have not been a great many direct experiments with wild birds relative to this problem. The financial and technical difficulties of such an undertaking are great. Of the experiments performed directly with wild birds the crow experiments of Rowan (1946) have been regarded as yielding positive results to this question. The paper describing

this experiment is interesting because of the small number of details given to support the conclusions of the author.

Fifty-four young birds of the year were released to Tofield, Alberta, the point at which they had been trapped during late summer. At the date of release, November 9, it was assumed that all the adults had gone south and thus the crows would have no experienced birds to guide them. Some sixty per cent were recovered; of these not a single bird had deviated significantly from the standard fall direction. After a discussion of the theoretical implications of this performance Rowan concludes, "It seems to me that one is compelled to describe this as an inherited sense of direction, whether one likes this habitually spurned definition or not . . . "

It should be made clear that the data quoted above is complete as given in the original paper describing this experiment. Griffin in his article on Bird Navigation in the book *Recent Studies in Avian Biology*, refers to the above experiment by name of paper and date, as well as publisher. He claims that the same birds described by Rowan as released at the point of capture were actually released a minimum of sixty miles to the southeast of the point of capture in order to be sure that the crows would begin their flight in unfamiliar territory. One might well ask why Rowan mislead his readers as to the point of release of the crows. If Rowan was accurate why did Griffin embellish another's experiments? Griffin further reveals that the sixty per cent recoveries claimed by Rowan can be broken down as follows: Of the thirty-one birds recovered thirteen had flown a significant distance from the release point. Seven of these thirteen recoveries were within the angle of about twenty degrees subtended at the release point by the winter range of the population. Of the remaining six birds all were recovered within twenty degrees of a direction that pointed towards some part of the winter range.

This additional information supplied by Griffin, possibly from private correspondence with Rowan, certainly does not strengthen the original paper's conclusion that the experiments prove an inherited sense of direction. One must consider the wind direction at the time of release, a point which Rowan did not include in his paper. The Rocky Mountains form a wall to any easy westward flight and birds flying along this barrier would be led southeast toward Kansas and Oklahoma, particularly if these birds were flying under the influence of southward movement of air. A check with the Weather Bureau disclosed that the predominant movement of air across the Canadian and North Dakota border is in the fall from the northwest to the southeast.

Since the young crows had been restrained from migrating until after their normal departure date there is reason to doubt that these birds were even migrating. An interpretation of this experiment which seems better to fit the facts, is that the young crows, caged and well fed for several months, followed the line of least resistance when faced with the problem of feeding themselves. In their foraging flights their course was simply downstream in the river of air.

We may now summarize the ways by which it seems to the writer that a bird engaged in migratory activity navigates:

A. Birds are able to maintain a bearing once it has been determined. They

determine this bearing by learning, and maintain it by one of several "compass devices."

B. Birds on migration are able to follow experienced birds taking the same route. This is accomplished through flight-calls and visual means.

C. Birds have a good memory for direction and certain types of topographic clues, particularly bodies of water which are conspicuous from above, especially on moonlight nights. Possibly also mountains as they extend above the horizon.

D. The proof that birds use an inherited sense of direction in migratory navigation is not known to the writer.—*Greenville, S. C.*, March, 1956

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Several of the authors quoted in the above article are not listed in the bibliography, but are referred to in the literature cited. For an excellent bibliography on the problems of bird navigation and migration up to the year 1955, see Griffin, D. R. 1955. Bird Navigation.

—CBC—

Present Status of the List of Birds Occurring in South Carolina

South Carolina Bird Life appeared in December of 1949. At this writing therefore, six (6) years have elapsed since its publication. In order to keep interested parties up to date regarding additions to the avifauna of South Carolina since that time, the following is presented:

The body of the text of *South Carolina Bird Life* carried 442 forms. The addenda listed one (1) additional form (Common Redpoll, P. 561) total 443. To these can now be added the following:

Added to S. C. by *secured specimens:*	Added to Hypothetical List *sight records only:*
Richardson's Goose	Cattle Egret
Fulvous Tree-duck	Sutton's Warbler
Franklin's Gull	Evening Grosbeak
Vermilion Flycatcher	Pine Grosbeak
Savannah Sparrow, 3 forms	Western Tanager
P. s. *mediogriseus*	Lincoln's Sparrow
P. s. *nevadensis*	Tree Sparrow
P. s. *oblitus*	
No. Seaside Sparrow	

The total list of avian forms for South Carolina now stands at 472. Again it seems advisable to point out that, although included in the Hypothetical List are such undoubted records as those concerning Cattle Egret, Tree Sparrow et al, it must be borne in mind that as yet, *no specimen* has been secured in South Carolina.—*Alexander Sprunt, Jr., The Crescent, Charleston 44, S. C.*

EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements
Authors, Members, Letters
Items of Interest

NOTICE FOR 1956 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Christmas count dates this year are Saturday, December 22 through Tuesday, January 2, 1957. Refer to **The Chat**, December, 1955, Volume 19, Number 4, Page 83 for the rules and follow carefully.

Please send your count as soon as you possibly can to B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C., as he must have time to compile and also to investigate any rare species. Let's have the biggest count this year we've ever turned in!

BOOK REVIEW

Iowa Fish and Fishing by James R. Harlan and E. B. Speaker. (illustrations in color by Maynard F. Reece). Iowa State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court, Des Moines, Iowa. (Third ed., 377 pp. $2.50 postpaid.) This is a wonderful book. Why notice it in a "bird" publication? Birds are evolved from amphibians; fish are amphibious; some birders fish; some fishermen watch birds. It all ties together. The 18 plates depicting in full color 63 fish are worth the price of the book. Both fish and birds swim. Some birds swim literally in water; other birds swim through the air. Did you ever see a slow-motion movie on birds—notice that "sculling" action. Some fish fly through the air—especially when caught by an ardent fisherman. There is nothing finer than the combination of birding and fishing. (Gives one a legitimate excuse for not catching any fish.) The color plates can be obtained separately on two poster sheets or separates of each plate. Cost $2.00 either way. Marvelous for dens or gifts. The book is chock full of scientific and popular facts about fish and fishing.—*Douglas E. Wade, Education Assistant, S. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.*

Annual CBC Fall Field Trip

On the weekend of October 5, 6 & 7, 1956, 115 members of CBC gathered at the Anchorage Club, Lake Waccamaw, N. C., for their fall field trip and meeting. Early Saturday morning birders found fog and a drizzle that continued most of the day, but did not affect enthusiasm a wit! After hearty breakfasting small groups went in different directions around the lake or to areas nearby and a goodly number chalked up one or more "lifers" (new species for life list). Oakland, a revolutionary home built in 1780, now restored, and about 19 miles from Lake Waccamaw on the Cape Fear River, was open all day Saturday for the membership to visit. Jim Stephens was the speaker of the evening—his topic: "Let's sell wildlife conservation." 71 species of birds were identified on Saturday. A trip to Lennon's Marsh was planned for Sunday morning with Jim Stephens guiding.

NESTING OBSERVATIONS OF BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES

Joseph and Rebekah Norwood

Nesting of the Brown-headed Nuthatch *(Sitta pusilla)* in a man-made box again occurred in southeastern Charlotte this year. However, of more significance is the fact that a second brood was observed for a species that previously was believed to have only a single brood. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Nuthatches,* and other available sources, state that only one brood a season is raised; but Chamberlain, in a comment appended to Quay's account of nesting box utilization by Nuthatches (*Chat* 19(4): 87-88, 1955), noted the late nesting date and the possibility of a second brood.

The box used by this family of Nuthatches was located in our yard, same area as described *(Chat* 20(1): 19-20, 1953) and was a ¾" hollow log with the bark still attached. The inside dimensions were 5½ x 5 x 7¾" and the 1¼" entrance hole was 5⅞" from the floor. The roof was a ¼" oak board covered with black tar paper and the bottom was also of oak. It was mounted on a metal pole 7' from the ground, facing *southeast;* although shaded in the morning, it received the direct rays of the midday and afternoon sun (a factor which later proved disastrous to the nestlings of the second brood).

Around the last week of February a pair of "Brown-heads" was noted inspecting the box—this continued until March 6 when we first noted them carrying nesting material into it. From March 11 until April 2 (and sporadically throughout the remainder of the time the Nuthatches occupied the box) they were harassed by a pair of House Sparrows. Although the sparrows could not use the small hole themselves (one had become caught by the head in that same box the previous season and hung for some 20 minutes before finally freeing itself) they attempted to prevent the Nuthatches from doing so. However, the "Brown-heads" prevailed and continued their activities. On April 11 we were able to observe one of the pair enter the box with food and that same day, upon tapping gently on the bottom of the box, heard the faint twitterings of the nestlings. Since we had observed frequent trips by both parents for several days (without being able to note any food in their beaks, from our angle of observation) we believe the clutch probably hatched earlier. On April 26 two young were seen to leave the box in the early afternoon—no more were seen, although later evidence proved the brood was larger.

On April 30 we saw an adult Nuthatch making a trip to the box with a beakful of dead grass stems. A note of May 1 reveals that "activity continues about that same box. Are they contemplating a second brood?" The morning of May 8 we looked out at the box and it seemed to be covered with Nuthatches—a look through 7x35 glasses showed there were five. One of the adults made trip after trip to the suet stick twenty-three yards away to feed the youngsters. At least three of the birds were immatures from the earlier brood and possibly there were four as it is believed that the female was on the eggs of the second clutch. After about fifteen minutes all left but one immature and two adults. The male (at least the one we presumed to

be the male, since it was seen most often and was identifiable by a larger white neck spot) made continued trips to feed the young birds, which were now drifting around in the nearby pines, and on one occasion fed the female inside the box. The young bird that remained on the box was seen to peer inside the hole several times. The day and night of May 7-8 was marked by a heavy downpour of rain—this might account for the reappearance of the young birds at the natal box demanding food. The high pitched chattering of both young and old was heard throughout the day, and for several days thereafter the young birds were seen fairly frequently.

The second brood hatched May 21, and of interest is the fact that two of the first brood were seen on the suet stick that day—no evidence of feeding by parent birds though. Feeding and care of the second brood continued routinely, with occasional bouts with the House Sparrows.

On June 8 the temperature, mild up to that time, rose to a hot and humid 90 degrees F., and one of the nestlings was seen with its body half out of the box and beak wide open. This same thing was seen on the afternoon of June 9 (92 degrees F.), and about 5:00 P.M. we noted no activity about the box at all. We assumed that since it was about time, the birds had fledged and left the box—we heard no noise when we rapped on the side. On June 10 I removed the box for inspection and discovered the nestlings still inside—all dead. There were five, fairly well developed, and ranging in size from 3-1/16 to 3½" (roughly measured with a ruler); on two of the birds the feathers were partially denuded on the rear lower half of the body. No evidence of parasites could be seen within our limited knowledge. According to the average of 20-24 nesting days, the birds should have been ready to leave the nest within 3-4 days. They appeared much as adults excepting the light gray heads (no brown) and a brownish wash on the white underparts. In addition one unhatched egg was in the nest; no embryo was found when it was broken.

The nest itself consisted of the usual pine seed wings, bark strips, pine needles, grass and some hair (not found in the nest examined last year). The second nest, built directly on top of the first, was about ½" deep. Upon removing this to reach the first nest we discovered an egg from the first clutch. Both eggs were cream with brown or purple splotches—more heavily marked on the larger end. Depth of the first nest was 1¼", and it rested on foundation material of *pine twigs* (some up to 7" long!) 2" deep. Total depth of nesting material was 4" in the 7¾" deep cavity.

We assume that the combination of high temperature and exposed position of the box was responsible for the death of the second brood. The two boxes used last year were both shaded from the afternoon sun; maybe in choosing natural sites this Nuthatch prefers at least partial shade. However, both of these boxes were again available this year and not used. A ready supply of suet close at hand might have been a factor in the initial selection of the box and in the raising of a second brood. No further instances of box nesting by "Brown-heads" have occurred in this area this year.

Apparently, as in the case of the use of nesting boxes, second broods for this little Nuthatch have been overlooked, not reported, or, as Chamberlain suggested (*Chat* 20(1):20, 1956), the habits of the Brown-headed Nuthatch are changing.—*Charlotte, N. C.*

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

We are so glad to have some new reports from CBC members interested in Backyard Birding. This department is not supposed to be my personal contribution, but reports sent in to me from throughout the Carolinas and from everywhere else that this bulletin is read. So as soon as a new *Chat* comes to you, please each of you go through your notes and select unusual items and send them in to me. For instance, in our own yard this past seasmon, we had a Crested Flycatcher pick an odd place for a nest. For several years, this pair of flycatchers has nested in one of the gourds we had put up for martins. This year, the gourds had all been broken up, so the birds hunted and called all about the yard, searching for a place to build. There were several boxes available, and a good sized hole in the big walnut tree, so I did not pay too much attention to where they were going. From the back porch, we could see the parent birds perched on the powerline right over the south side of the porch. Knowing that there was no suitable nest hole up there, I couldn't figure out why they would be there so frequently. So I took my binoculars and stood out by the scuppernong vine in the shade of the garage, and watched them. When we added the screened porch to the back of the house, the roof had to be raised. Inside, the porch is sealed, but a narrow ledge is formed on the outside where the new roof comes up over the old part. I was much surprised to see that the flycatchers had built a nest on this ledge! They raised a family in it, too, and when one little bird left the nest, it slid right down the incline and dropped down in the shrubbery. The others might have, for the bulldog was looking for them while the parent birds fussed and fumed. I went out to see if a snake was after them, and found out what was going on, so shut Mike in the porch until they could get safely into the woods.

Whenever we have a concentration of birds, we will find that we will also have certain predators. Dr. Roy M. Brown of Chapel Hill, N. C., shares his experiences with us in the following letter. He says, "We have had a Phoebe's nest under a shed beside our garage. On May 14, a commotion among the parent Phoebes and a neighboring Summer Tanager attracted our attention. We found a small Copperhead snake on the cinder-block wall, on a level with the nest, two feet from it and eight feet from the ground. The snake had climbed the wall, and was apparently headed for the nest. Two days later, another commotion took us to the nest. This time I found a four foot black folded about the nest. When I knocked him down, a young bird already dead fell from the folds of the snake's body.

"Two years ago I had the same experience at exactly the same spot with a black snake, except that that time I reached the spot before the snake killed a bird. The birds went somewhere else last year for their nest; but this year they, or at least a pair of Phoebes, repaired the two year old nest." *(Thank you, Dr. Brown, please send us some more notes—Dept. Ed.)*

For several seasons, the Pileated Woodpeckers have been feeding in the large gum trees around the ponds in our neighborhood. Often I would see a large oblong excavation in some tree, and would know that they had been feeding there. Very early in the spring, I had seen some holes in the trees at Mr. Yelton's pond, right behind our home. Still I was really surprised when on Saturday afternoon, April 14, my husband and I saw these big woodpeckers entering and leaving a nest hole about twenty feet up a dead snag. We were fishing from our boat, and the birds paid absolutely no attention to us. They were obviously feeding young!

We watched the woodpeckers every chance we had. Often we could hear them from our home, calling back and forth to each other. On May 22, we saw a head sticking out of the nest hole! Two days later, while we were fishing from the boat, the young bird would call with its head looking out of the nest hole, and a parent bird would come feed it. All this time, the parents would comb our sandhills hunting food for their big nestlings. We had had a sill taken out from where our cement steps touched the back porch. Early the next morning, one big woodpecker was in our back yard, digging termites out of that sill!

When we went fishing on the afternoon of the 28th of May, the nest hole was empty of any head, and all was quiet and still, as far as woodpecker noises went. The birds had left. I was so disappointed, for I had so wanted to see them leave, to determine whether there was one or two young. I always saw one head in the hole, but couldn't tell whether it was the some one or not. To me, the crest on the head of the young one was more orangish than bright red. I had not known that the young birds still in the nest showed this colorful crest.

All the bird books that I have read said nothing whatever about how young Pileated Woodpeckers looked in the nest. So I wrote Mrs. Charles and asked her if she could give me any information. And I also asked Mrs. Sisson if she had any book containing any records and descriptions of these big young birds. Mrs. Charles answered, and quoted Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers* as saying: "The young woodpeckers . . . are about the same as the adult female . . . the red of the head is duller, paler and more restricted . . . than that of the adult male."

Mrs. Sisson sent me the May-August issue of the *Atlantic Naturalist*, which is the bulletin of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. In this interesting little book was an article about their Pileated Woodpeckers by the Misses Sallie B. VanMeter and Mary G. VanMeter. Their very absorbing account covered several years' experience in watching the birds and in taking notes and pictures. They say that the fluffy reddish crests showed on the baby birds on the third day after they had noticed the male and female going in and out of the nest frequently. They said, "Five days from our first sight of them we clearly identified them as one little male with red crest extending over the forehead and showing the red mustache, the other two females with red crests on the head only." I never did see the head of the little bird or birds at close enough range to see clearly if it was male or female. When we came up under the nest tree in the boat, the little one would disappear down into the nest. The parents would continue to feed it, going inside until only their tails stuck out of the hole. Since the young birds left the nest, I had not heard them in the neighborhood at all. Late in the afternoon of July 23, just at dusk when the Green Herons had flown over, going to their roosting place, I saw one Pileated Woodpecker come quietly in from the west end of the pond and enter the old nest hole. Evidently one bird was sleeping there. On Saturday afternoon, September 8, just about four o'clock, we saw the female Pileated come to the nest tree, and go all over it, picking at old holes and giving the "Wicker, wicker, wicker!" call. I shall continue to be on the alert for these woodpeckers during the winter, and hope I can get more detailed information on their nesting habits if they return to this same hole next spring.

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Typewritten manuscript should be double spaced on letter-size white paper.

A Common Loon in North Carolina in Mid-summer.—On July 28, 1956, Mrs. Norwood and I observed for about ten minutes a Common Loon on the Yadkin River just below High Rock Dam (Rowan-Davidson Counties, N. C.). When first seen it was some distance from the bridge that crosses the river; even at that distance its low lying appearance in the water and heavy bill were prominent. It gradually worked its way to within ten feet of the bridge, occasionally diving, and we both had excellent views of the Loon through 7x35X binoculars. The time was around midday and the weather fair. In this good light and close proximity we could even more clearly note the heavy, pointed, straight bill; the plumage appeared somewhat between that of a winter and breeding adult leaning more toward the winter. Although light underneath, including the underside of the neck, it was mottled on the back. On the neck there were narrow white vertical stripes extending onto the top of the head. We feel that it was probably an immature bird rather than an adult in the transitory stage between breeding and winter plumage. It dived with great skill, leaping forward when it submerged. Realizing that this bird is found only infrequently along the coast in summer and rarely inland, we observed it with care and were satisfied with our conclusion. We again observed it for some time at the same location on August 5.

Birds of North Carolina mentions only coastal records for the summer. The farthest previous inland summer record for this state we can find is a date of June 11, at Durham, N. C., cited by Odum (*Chat* 11, 45-46). — Joseph R. Norwood, *Charlotte, N. C.* (The bird so well described in this excellent report was studied at length, Sept. 4, by E. B. & B. R. Chamberlain. Through a 30X Balscope the "narrow white vertical stripes" were clearly seen to be due to parting of the dark surface feathers exposing the lighter under ones.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Observations at a Pied-billed Grebe's Nest.—The following report covers the behavior of a pair of Pied-billed Grebes that nested in Nash County, N. C., during the past summer. Unfortunately, the eggs did not hatch.

May 23, 1956—Located a pair of grebes at Ward's Pond, about 8 miles north of Rocky Mount. Watched one bird gathering dead nest material and adding it to a mound about 2 feet in diameter and about 10" above the surface of the water.

May 30—A grebe was incubating when I visited the site today. At least

one egg was visible when the bird slipped off the nest at my approach.

June 3—The grebe again slipped off the nest as I drove up, leaving at least five eggs uncovered. I parked about 50 feet away and waited. She (I presume) half hid within a few feet of the nest, exposing very little of her body. She shifted position several times but did not leave the nest by more than a few feet. Soon the other bird, who had been swimming 100 yards away, came in and the pair carried on a "heated" clucking conversation. Both birds dived under the nest and around it. After about twenty minutes, the female dived and came up right beside the nest. Cautiously she clambered out and settled down on the eggs. She did not leave as I drove off.

On my return an hour later to show it off to (daughter) Eleanor, we approached more slowly, pausing at the front end of the pond. I saw through my glasses that she had left the nest. When we reached it this time, she had joined her mate in the middle of the pond. The nest was completely covered over. The pair paid no attention to us or the nest, remaining for quite a while out in the pond preening and diving. After a quarter hour there was another bit of "conversation" and soon the female approached the nest. She made several passes at it before clambering upon its edge, where she began plucking off the covering of most of the dead, brown stems and leaves. When the eggs were completely exposed she fluffed out over them. While sitting there she stretched out her snake-like neck and pulled quite a bit of the nest material and leaves up beside her. Again she didn't flush when we drove off.

June 4—The grebe appeared more reluctant to leave the nest when I arrived today. Finally she did leave—after covering the eggs. She remained nearby and soon uncovered her eggs and began incubating again.

June 6—Drove to the edge of the pond, within 15 feet of the nest. She slipped off and I waded out to the nest for the first time and set up a Graflex camera within 4 feet of the nest, fully exposed to view. I waited an hour but she did not return. I uncovered the eggs, saw that there were seven of them and recovered them. As I left, I saw from a distance that she was returning.

I set my Graflex up again, June 8 and 9. Each time I waited an hour or more before getting a shot of the incubating bird. On the 17th., a hot, sultry day, I finally gave up without a picture. I left a dummy camera out over the water. I was now about convinced that grebes didn't have to do their own incubating (but depended upon the warmth of the decaying vegetation).

I could not find the grebes on the 18th. On the 19th. the grebes were in the pond, as they were during the succeeding days, but I never saw one on the nest after June 9. On the 26th, I examined the nest closely. The covering was dried out, matted down, and all of the eggs partially exposed. Except for the scanty covering, the nest was very moist, almost a mass of decaying matter turned to mud. Many small plants were growing from it. While I believed the grebe at the beginning was able to dive under it, I was not so sure now. The pond had fallen about two feet during this dry spell. Apparently the nest had been abandoned for some time.

At the end of the month I made a final check of the nest. The 23-24 day incubation period *(Bent, et al)* was up. I broke one of the eggs and found a slightly developed embryo. Whether abandonment was due to my interference or not I do not know.—J. W. E. Joyner, *Rocky Mount, N. C.* (The above has been extracted from several letters received while the observations were in progress.—*Dept. Ed*).

Wilson's Petrel off the Beaufort, N. C. Coast.—While fishing aboard the "Danco," June 30th., 1956, about 30 miles off shore, the writer was surprised to see three or four Purple Martin-like birds with white rumps flying low over the waves. They were Wilson's Petrels and it was an impressive sight to witness such small birds flying so far out at sea over such an expanse of water. This species and Leach's Petrel are commonly known as Mother Cary's Chickens.—F. B. Meacham, *N. C. State Museum.*

Cattle Egrets Nesting in South Carolina.—Drum Island in Charleston harbor is a marsh and mud island supporting part of the Cooper River Bridge between Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. It is being used as a spoil area in dredging operations in the harbor, the north end being used first several years ago, built up to a ten or fifteen foot elevation. The ground has leached out and tamarisk (better known as salt-water cedar) covers several acres of the island.

For some years herons have used this part of the island as a rookery and Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Little Blue, Tri-color and Black-crowned Night Herons and a few Glossy Ibisis nested there this year. Mr. Phillip H. Staats of Charleston has been watching this rookery and as Cattle Egrets had been seen within a few miles of it on both sides of the Cooper River, the possibility of their nesting there seemed likely.

Mr. Staats invited the writer to explore the island with him and on July 4th., we worked our way to the highest part of the island, from which point we could get a good view of the entire rookery and see the circling birds. The writer soon saw one Cattle Egret flying around and then three were seen at one time, and as these birds seemed more interested in the southwestern part of the island we worked our way to that end. Most of the nests were empty, the season being about over, but there were a few young birds to be seen. Never having seen young Cattle Egrets, we could not identify them. We returned the next morning with a blind which we set up under the cedars, but the old birds were wary and we had to leave. The next morning we brought another blind which I set up in the open so I could watch the birds in the tops of the cedars while Mr. Staats watched the birds under the cedars. The fourth day we still had no luck but the fifth morning, July 8th., we were there when the old birds were returning to feed their young and we were both fortunate in seeing a pair of the old Cattle Egrets (which were in excellent plumage), feeding their young. This is the first known record of the breeding of Cattle Egrets in South Carolina.—ELLISON A. WILLIAMS, *Charleston, S. C., July 15, 1956.*

Glossy Ibis Nest in Charleston Harbor.—A set of eggs of the Eastern Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis falcinellus)* was found this spring on an island in Charleston harbor which has been the scene of several ornithological records in the last few months. The Ibis eggs are the first ever found in South Carolina.

On April 22, 1956, I visited Drum Island (the Cooper River Bridge crosses the southern portion of the island) to check on the nesting of the ever-increasing colony of Common and Snowy Egrets, Little Blue, Tri-color and Black-crowned Night Herons.

Twelve Glossy Ibises wheeled together overhead with the various species of herons. Three of the Ibises were first year birds, still lacking their immaculate, dark feathers. The remaining nine birds were adults and acted suspiciously like they were nesting.

A five-hour search failed to reveal a nest of the Glossy in the multitude of heron nests adorning the myrtle bushes, small cedars and mulberry trees on the north end of the island. Walking through the nesting groves only disturbed the residents, who took to the air in huge flocks.

On April 26, I returned to Drum Island. After three and a half hours of hiding in the bushes and watching, I finally saw a pair of Glossy Ibis alight on a myrtle bush containing four nests. One Glossy took up his station on a top branch while the other made her way along the branches to one of the nests and settled down on it.

The nest held four eggs, similar to night heron eggs but with a slightly darker, bluish-green tint, and more oval.

The nest of sticks, 6 feet from the ground, was more substantially built than the three nearby night heron "platforms;" more deeply cupped and, in addition to the usual sticks, contained a score of reed stems.

The only previous record of Glossy Ibis nesting in South Carolina was written *(S. C. Bird Life-1949)* when a nest containing dead young was discovered in the Blake Santee heron colony, a fresh water habitat, July

3, 1947.—Ernest Cutts, *Charleston, S. C., July 19, 1956.*

Coastal Colony Survey and Banding.—Following is a report of the approximate number of nests found and the number of birds banded on a trip to the beaches in the vicinity of Morehead City, Carteret Co., N. C., July 5th., through 8th., 1956. The participants: David Wray, Bill Joyner, John Thompson and Harry Davis.

At Cape Lookout we found nests in these approximate numbers: Clapper Rail, 2; Oyster-catcher, 2; Thick-billed Plover, 2; Common Tern, 24; Least Tern, 30; Black Skimmer, 160.

On Radio Island, south of the Beaufort-Morehead Causeway, we found these nests: Thick-billed Plover, 2; Common Tern, 25; Least Tern, 17; Black Skimmer, 30.

At Starvation Island we estimated the nests as follows: Common Egret, 24; Snowy Egret, 6; Tri-colored Heron, 80; Little Blue Heron, 60; Black-crowned Night Heron, 10.

Except for the Heron Rookery of two acres, which, incidentally, had been practically burned in early spring, the other nests were noticeably scattered over a considerable area. More noticeable was the fact that many of the young were flying and more of them were laying or incubating. This was despite the fact that we went on July 5th-8th this year instead of in the middle of the month. In trying for an explanation we can only suggest that we have had erratic weather this spring, some warm weather also and colder periods that followed.

Our banding consisted of: Common Egret, 16; Snowy Egret, 3; Tri-colored Heron, 7; Little Blue Heron, 1; Clapper Rail, 1; Common Tern, 25; Least Tern, 5; Black Skimmer, 118.

Other banding this summer included 3 Cattle Egrets (2 by John Funderburg); and 2 Glossy Ibis (2 of these by Funderburg) at Battery Island near Southport. Also, a Nighthawk was banded on the roof of a building at Raleigh.—Harry T. Davis, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., July 19, 1956.*

Notes on the September 1956 Broad-wing Movement Along the Blue Ridge.—In continuation of a study of the flyways of Broad-winged Hawks along the ranges of the Southern Appalachian System in which I have engaged during the fall of the last six years, covering considerable territory of the central part of these mountains, it was my intention to explore the Blue Ridge from northeast of Asheville southwestward to its end in northern Georgia, during the period of Sept. 22 to 30 of this year. Unfortunately, it was not possible for me to take my vacation at this time, and the plan had to be abandoned. However, on week-ends devoted to hawk migration observations closer home, either along the Carolina-Tennessee line or in North Carolina territory, I was able to determine that fair numbers of Broad-wings use Roan Mountain, including the balds east of the coniferous forest, as a flyway, probably continuing from Roan to the Black Mountains. It was also found, as has been proven in previous years, that the Broad-wings move along the Blue Ridge, especially the eastern slope, between Grandfather Mt., to east of the Black Mountains.

Readers of the *Chat* may be interested in the following listed results of observations during Sept., 1956:

9th.—Roan Mt. (Carver's Gap to Grassy Bald): Total of 21 Broad-wings; largest flock 7.

15th.—Roan Mt. (Carver's Gap to Jane Bald): 3 Broad-wings during the afternoon.

15th.—Hump Mt., southwest of Elk Park (Avery Co.): 2 Broad-wings.

22nd.—Blue Ridge Parkway from Linville Falls (mile post 315) southwestward to Green Knob (mile post 350): 46 Broad-wings during period 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

22nd.—Green Knob Fire Tower—west, above Blue Ridge Parkway (mile post 350): 12 Broad-wings from 2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

23rd.—Green Knob Fire Tower: 125 Broad-wings from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., including flocks of 26, 23, 12, 12, 11.

29th.—Roan Mt. (High Bluff): 37 Broad-wings from 1:20 to 5:15 P.M.,

including flocks of an estimated minimum of 30, spiraling.

30th.—Roan Mt. (Carver's Gap to Jane Bald): 71 Broad-wings, the largest group consisting of 9 birds. On this day the brisk wind, out of the Northwest, was favorable for hawk flights. The number observed was good considering the lateness of the date.

Other species of hawks observed in the above locations during the period of August 18 to September 30, follow: Sharp-shinned, 33; Cooper's 4; Red-tailed, 25; Red-shouldered, 2; Marsh Hawk, 4; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; unidentified, 14.—Fred W. Behrend, *Elizabethton, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1956.*

A Thick-billed Plover Egg in a Least Tern Nest.—While making a survey of the maritime breeding birds of the southeastern North Carolina coast during 1955, a colony of Least Terns, *Sterna a. antillarum*, was located at Myrtle Grove Sound on June 13. A nest found at the edge of this colony contained one egg of a Least Tern and one egg of a Thick-billed Plover, *Charadrius w. wilsonia*. Although the nest was watched from a distance for nearly four hours it was not approached by birds of either species. The nest was typical of other Least Tern nests nearby and it is probable that the tern egg was laid first. After the plover egg was laid the nest was probably abandoned since neither egg was incubated. Those in other nests in the colony were in an advanced state of incubation. This was the only nest seen during this survey which contained the egg of more than one species.

Sprunt (*Auk*, 1929, p. 555-556) gave a record of three Wilson's (thick-billed) Plover nests found in South Carolina in 1929 which contained the eggs of least terns. One of these nests was being incubated by a least tern. He stated: "In many years of observation along this coast, and the hundreds of tern nests examined these are the sole instances of such a finding."

The only other report I have found of tern eggs in another species nest in North Carolina is that of Robert P. Allen (*Auk*, 1932, p. 219). On May 29, 1931, he visited Royal Shoal in Pamlico Sound. There were 500 Laughing Gulls and 2400 Royal Terns nesting on the island. A few Cabot's Terns and Common Terns were also nesting on this shoal.

While examining the nests of the Laughing Gulls, which nested in the deep grass and myrtle thickets—whereas the Royal Terns nested on the open beach in short grass—he found three different nests each of which contained one egg of a Laughing Gull and one egg of a Royal Tern. In each case the eggs were being incubated by the Laughing Gull which seemingly took no note of the strange egg.

Ernest Cutts (*Chat*, 1956, p. 39) found a number of heron nests near Charleston, S. C. containing the eggs of more than one species. A census of the nests of the various species of herons breeding along the southeastern North Carolina coast was also a part of the above mentioned survey. No nests were found which were being used by more than one species of heron. There is less competition for nesting space in the North Carolina heronries, however, than there seemed to be in the Penny Dam colony studied by Cutts. Perhaps as competition for nesting sites becomes more intense there is also an increased tendency for some species of herons to deposit eggs in any available nest regardless of the species involved.—John B. Funderburg, *Department of Zoology, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C.*

Behavior: Chuck-will's-widow.—(From Harry Hampton's Wood and Waters column, *The State* Newspaper, Columbia, S. C., May 22, 1956).—One night recently Mrs. H. awoke in the dead of night and heard two Chuck-will's-widows calling lustly, so close outside they sounded as if they were right in the room. Their songs were almost in unison. Then one stopped and she heard a "stomping" sound. (Probably the "konk-konk-konk" call—see Dingle article, Sept. issue—*Ed.*) Down at Old House (on Edisto Island), one evening when I had stepped inside the house a moment, she and Bill Benton heard the same thing, the bird making its weird preliminary

squawks first. Bill said he thought the flapping sound was made by the bird's wings. This is the first time I have heard these birds performing (what appeared to be) some sort of mating dance. (Forbush states that the Chucks are "ardent woocrs")—HARRY HAMPTON, *Columbia, S. C.*

Behavior: Swifts.—"Song in my chimney."—To the excellent account of the Chimney Swift in A. C. Bent's *Life Histories* (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bul. 176:271-293, 1940), I wish to add that the birds sometimes sing in their nesting chimney. While at work in my corner room in Chapel Hill, July 1956, I heard an insect-like twitter, the source of which was not easy to locate. It sounded as though it could be the production of some orthopteran (grasshopper-like) creature over the nearby driveway or in the overhanging trees. It was a reedy, "sitt-tit-tit . . ." note, loudest at first, somewhat modulated, and continued as long as a "road-duster" grasshopper or a Pine Warbler might give their songs. Just as one song ended, another, slightly overlapping, began and took the same course. Always there was this "tandem" duet and it seemed eloquent of contentment. These performances were given over several days at irregular intervals from about 8-9 a.m. to the same hours, p.m.

When I traced the sound to its source—a chimney I can almost reach from my chair—I found the presumptive duo—a pair of swifts clinging to the wall, closely side by side. A single nestling in pin feathers rested several inches away. On my entirely removing the screen of the fireplace, one of them skittered to the floor in apparent "broken-wing ruse", and both began a fierce, "zitt-zit-zit . . ." (a louder and harsher twitter, with harder "consonants") that was startling, having all the menace of the buzz of a large rattlesnake. Despite this disturbance, the singing routine of the birds was resumed and continued for a few days.

It is worth adding that at no time did I hear reverberating wingbeats of the adults, as I have on other occasions, so they must be able to drop down a chimney and get out again without making a perceptible sound.—W. L. MCATEE, *Chapel Hill, N. C.*

Warbling Vireo on S. C. Hypothetical List.—A Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) was observed July 21, 1956, about three miles from the North Carolina line near Jocassee, S. C. The bird was found in a grove of trees a hundred yards or so from the White Water River. Several species had been attracted by my imitation of a Screech Owl and all of the scolding birds were very bold. The vireo approached to within six feet on several occasions, and was watched for five minutes or longer.

As this species has not been reported from South Carolina it seems pertinent to point out that the limits of its breeding range on the South, as defined by Bent, are Dismal Swamp, Va., Anniston, Ala., and southern La. Minot Davis reports it a common bird of local distribution about Asheville, N. C. In view of the above it seems surprising that the Warbling Vireo has not been recorded previously in South Carolina.

Caesar's Head and Table Rock, visited by several competent ornithologists in an attempt to record the bird-life of the mountain section of S. C., differ in habitat from the Jocassee area. The Keowee and White Water Rivers, two rather large mountain streams, apparently fulfill the ecological requirements of the Warbling Vireo. The possibility that it is a breeding bird along these streams should be considered.

I am familiar with this bird, having observed a nesting pair for several weeks near Annapolis, Md.—J. B. SHULER, JR., *Greenville, S. C.* (In keeping with the sound policy to admit no bird to the State List in the absence of a specimen, the Warbling Vireo is placed on the S. C. Hypothetical List. In the case of this particular species, it is interesting to note that Elliott Coues included it in his *Synopsis of the Birds of South Carolina (Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.* 1868, XII, 104-127). Wayne and the authors of *S. C. Bird Life* considered this Coues record doubtful.—*Dept. Ed*).

Redstart Breeding In South Carolina.—On July 21, 1956 I observed a female American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) feeding an immature. They were in a tangle of grape vines and young trees between the Keowee

River and a dirt road a mile south of Jocassee, (Oconee Co.) S. C. I returned to the location the following day and saw them again. This appears to be the first actual breeding record for the Redstart in South Carolina, although it has been suspected to nest in this part of the state for some time.—J. B. SHULER, *Greenville, S. C.*

Briefs for the Files

Horned Grebe, 4 in backwater of Albemarle Sound, Dare Co., N. C., Apr. 19, all in bright plumage, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood. **Cattle Egret**, 12 at Santee Gun Club, Charleston Co., S. C., June 30, J. B. Shuler, Jr., Ronnie Langston. **Great Blue Heron**, 1 immature at Johnson's Lake, Mecklenburg Co., N. C., July 2, JRN. **Least Bittern**, 1 flushed from marshes of Bodie Island, Dare Co., N. C., Apr. 8, JRN. **Glossy Ibis**, about 30 arrived at Battery Island, Southport, N. C., toward the end of April, David Adams, Waters Thompson. **Sparrow Hawk**, 1 at Roanoke Island, Dare Co., Apr. 19, JRN. **Sora Rail**, 1 captured in roadside ditch at New London, N. C., with slight leg injury, Sept. 16 and released the 17th., John Trott; reported "numerous in marshes of Dare and Hyde counties, Apr. 17-21," Mr. and Mrs. JRN. **Hudsonian Curlew**, 15, about 5 miles west of Goldsboro, July 30 - unusually far inland - Wildlife Patrolman Jim Buffaloe. **Upland Plover**, 1 in cut-over oats field at Old Town, near Rocky Mt., July 15, studied and photographed, J. W. E. Joyner. **Spotted Sandpiper**, 1, North Wilkesboro, July 11, "probably an early migrant." Wendell P. Smith. **Black-necked Stilt**, 12 at Santee Gun Club, mouth of Santee River, S. C., several going through broken wing, wounded, antics, June 10, N. A. & B. R. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edwards; 3 at pond back of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co., two of them feigning injury, July 15, Robert L. Wolff. **Gull-billed Tern**, about 15 pair nesting on Battery Island shoals, Southport, June 14-15, T. L. Quay. **Black-billed Cuckoo**, 1 seen and heard at Brinkleyville, western Halifax Co., N. C., May 12-19, & June 29-July 3, called constantly and presumed nesting. Thomas E. Street. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 1 at Elkin, N. C., as late as Apr. 9, E. M. Hodel and Linville Hendren. **Horned Lark**, 1 immature, Elkin, N. C., June 24, EMH. **Rough-winged Swallow**, pair nesting in drainage hole in Parkway underpass near Busick, Yancey Co., N. C., feeding young in nest, June 23, Robert Overing & B. R. Chamberlain. **Barn Swallow**, nested again this summer in the boathouse at Cape Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., Victor Kay; 12 pairs engaged in nest-building Apr. 19, 6 nests - no eggs, site, old boathouse 3 mi north of Hatteras village, JRN. **Ravens**, 1 "soaring below us" at Mt. Mitchell, June 8, LH; 2 at Pisgah Mt., alt. 5200 ft., soaring in valley over pink beds, Aug. 22, M. L. Church. **Brown Thrasher**, nest 11 feet high, held 3 young Apr. 9, Aynor, S. C., Mrs. G. E. Charles. **Am. Robin**, 1 at feeder on the ground, Edisto Beach, S. C., June 3, Mrs. Paul L. Atwood. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, 1 Troy, N. C., Sept. 27, Francis M. Covington. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 1 at Elkin, Apr. 2, LH & EMH. **Cedar Waxwing**, nesting at Lenoir, N. C., July 8, Orrin Whitner. **Cerulean Warbler**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Apr. 24, WPS. **Bay-breasted Warbler**, 1 at feeder, very conspicuous wing-bars and rose-tan tinting on sides, Oct. 10, Matthews, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain. **Blackpoll**, 1 at Salisbury, N. C. May 30, Mr. and Mrs. JRN; 1 at Savannah Wildlife Refuge, May 11, E. O. Mellinger. **Canada Warbler**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, as late as May 27, WPS. **Bobolink**, 500 plus in oats field, Savannah River Refuge, May 11, EOM. **Common Cowbird**, flock of about 22, Mint Hill, Mecklenburg Co., N. C., chocolate-brown heads of males very conspicuous, July 7, JRN. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, female at city feeder, Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 23, Mrs. George C. Potter. **Painted Bunting**, late at Savannah Refuge, May 4. EOM. **Purple Finch**, late at Elkin, May 4, EMH & LH. **Pine Siskin**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, May 7, WPS. **Henslow's Sparrow**, several singing in upper Yadkin County, July 25, LH. **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1 at Charlotte city feeder, Oct. 11, **Olin Wearn**; 1 at Lenoir, Oct. 14, Fred May. **White-throated Sparrow**, late at Lenoir, singing, June 2, and seen July 8 and 19, Cary Harrison *fide* Fred May. *All dates 1956.*

Merry Christmas

to

Carolina Bird Club Members !

from
The Editors
of

The Chat

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